TOKYO RAVENS 1

STORY BY
KOUHEI AZANO
ART BY
ATSUSHI SUZUMI
CHARACTER DESIGN BY
SUMIHEI

CHAPTER 1
PROMISE
A TRADITION?
BUT... I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT...
HUH? はっ?
HARUTORA, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO...
BUT...
BUT IT'S TRUE! IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY!
じわ...
SNIFFLE...
AND THEN WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER...
...BE YOUR FAMILIAR, NATSUME!
I'LL...
IT-IT'S OKAY!
はっ?
WHUMP!

CHAPTER 1
PROMISE
...AND I'LL PROTECT YOU FOREVER.
AND EVEN NOW...
...THE INTENSE AFTEREFFECTS OF IT CAN BE SEEN FLUTTERING ABOUT TOKYO.
THE TALE OF THE RAVENS.
AT THE END OF WORLD WAR II...
...A RITUAL WAS PERFORMED BY THE UNUSUALLY GIFTED ONMYOJI YAKO TSUCHIMIKADO. THAT RITUAL FAILED...
...AND BECAUSE OF ITS FAILURE, THE IMPERIAL CAPITAL OF TOKYO EXPERIENCED A SPIRITUAL DISASTER LIKE NEVER BEFORE.
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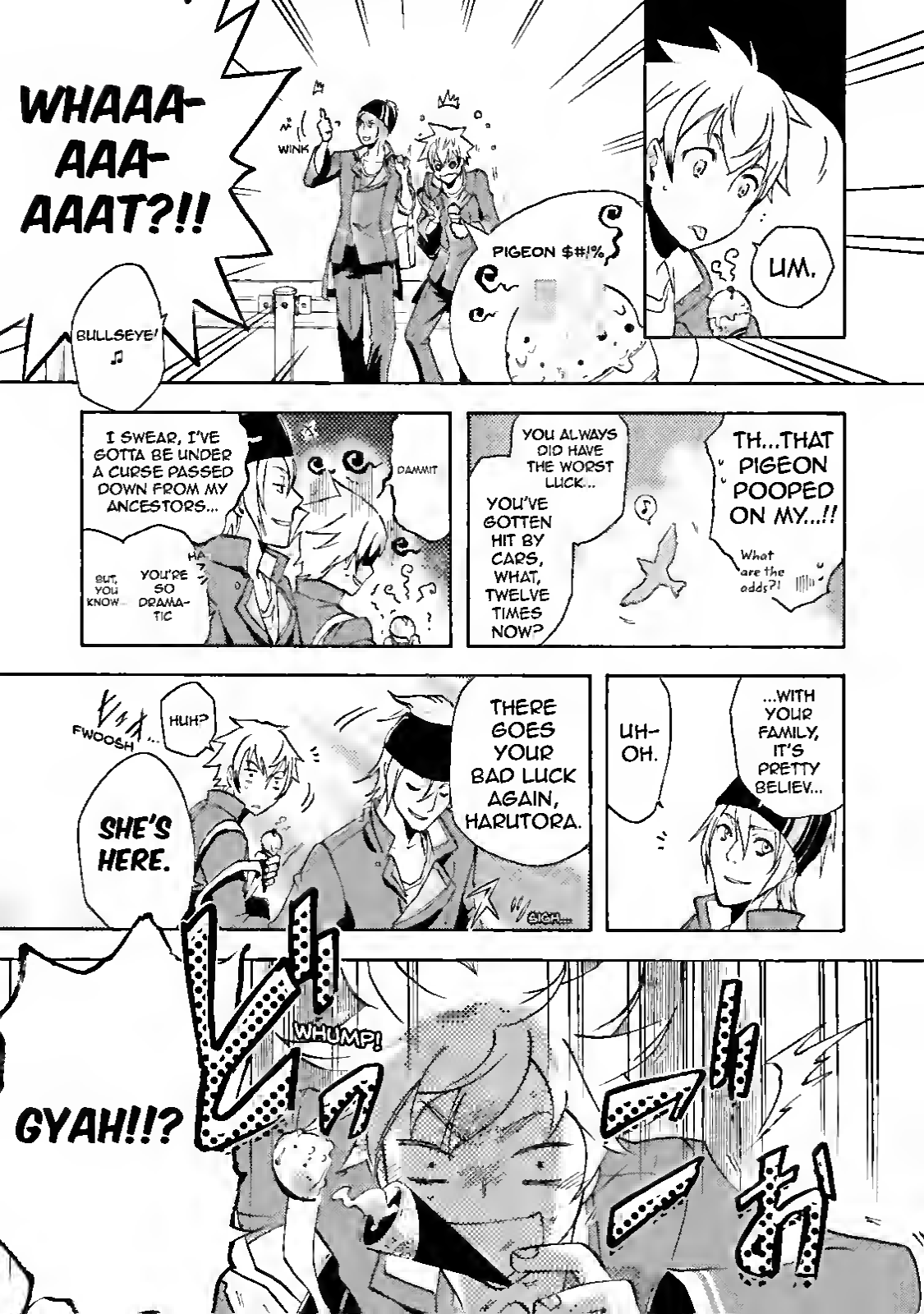
MARUNOUCHI, TOKYO
IN A TOKYO WHERE SPIRITUAL DISASTERS CONTINUE TO OCCUR...
WHOOOM
THE ONMYOJI BUREAU, ONCE COMMANDED BY YAKO, HAS CHANGED ITS NAME TO THE ONMYO AGENCY...
KEEP OUT
UGH... IT'S NO GOOD!
AT THIS RATE, IT'LL PROGRESS TO PHASE 3!
BZZT
THEN THERE IS THE MAGICAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU, WHICH MAINLY CONDUCTS INVESTIGATIONS, AND...
...AND PURIFIES SPIRITUAL DISASTERS ACCORDING TO ONMYO LAW.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITIN'!
SCREEEEECH!
!!

ALL RIGHT, GUYS!
BUCKLE DOWN, AND KEEP THAT BARRIER STRONG!
CAPTAIN!
MADE IT JUST IN TIME, HUH?
CLACK
SHINK!
ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF THE FIVE ELEMENTS...
SKRT
BZZZZ
THE SHARP ENERGY OF METAL DESTROYS THE PRIMEVAL ENERGY OF WOOD!
CLANG
METAL BEATS WOOD!
...THE EXORCISM BUREAU, WHICH DRIVES AWAY EVIL SPIRITS.
POINT

DARK MIASMA...
...DISPERSE!
SLPP
THEY ARE THE ONMYO MAGES OF THE MODERN AGE.
WHOMP
AWESOME...
WHOA!

TOJI, DID YOU SEE THAT?!
Just like a comic book!
SCREEEE
REEEE
WOW...
IN SOME SMALL TOWN
YEAH, I GUESS.
BUT THAT WAS DIFFER-ENT.
YOU MUST BE USED TO IT FROM GROWING UP IN TOKYO, HUH?
YEAH, THOSE ARE REALLY ON THE RISE OVER THERE.
WHAT, THE DISASTER PURIFICATION BROADCAST?
FLAP
HARU-TORA...
HE MUST BE WORLDS APART FROM REGULAR GUYS LIKE US, HUH?
FLUTTER
SPLURT
WHAT?! REALLY?
THAT'S AWESOME!
He's super elite!
THAT GUY JUST NOW...
HE'S GOTTA BE ONE OF THE TWELVE DIVINE GENERALS.


WHAAA-AAA-AAAT?!!
WINK
PIGEON $#!%
UM.
BULLSEYE!
I SWEAR, I'VE GOTTA BE UNDER A CURSE PASSED DOWN FROM MY ANCESTORS...
DAMMIT
BUT, YOU KNOW...
YOU'RE SO DRAMA-TIC
HA
YOU ALWAYS DID HAVE THE WORST LUCK...
YOU'VE GOTTEN HIT BY CARS, WHAT, TWELVE TIMES NOW?
TH...THAT PIGEON POOPED ON MY...!!
What are the odds?!
FWOOSH
HUH?
SHE'S HERE.
THERE GOES YOUR BAD LUCK AGAIN, HARUTORA.
EIGH...
UH-OH.
...WITH YOUR FAMILY, IT'S PRETTY BELIEV...
GYAH!!?
WHUMP!

FOUND YOU, STUPID-TORA!!
WHA...
HOKUTO?!
WHAT A CATCH!♥
YOU...! WHERE THE HELL DID YOU COME FROM?!
GAHH!
Get off, it's too hot out!
NEVER MIND THAT, WHY WEREN'T YOU ANSWERING YOUR PHONE, STUPID-TORA?!
LAY OFF! I WAS AT SUMMER SCHOOL!
Aww.
AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE THE KING OF THE F'S!
SHUT IT!
TMP!

OKAY!
AND FOR YOUR PENALTY!♥
SINCE YOU DIDN'T CALL ME BACK, YOU'RE STILL THE ONE IN THE WRONG.
YOU DON'T WANNA MAKE ME MAD, DO YOU?
SWISH
BUU-UUT...
SWISH
I DON'T GET IT.
.....
HEY! QUIT STEALING MINE!
Especially not the tip!
SWIPE!
...TREAT YOU TO A SHAVED ICE?
I DON'T SEE WHAT THAT--
WHY DO I HAVE TO...
HOKUTO.
OWW! NOW I'VE GOT A BRAIN FREEZE!!
SO...
SERVES YOU RIGHT!

ARE YOU HERE...
OH!
...TO GIVE HIM THE USUAL LECTURE AGAIN?
AHH...
...
YES, YES, THAT'S RIGHT!
HARU-TORA!
YOU WERE WATCHING THAT BROADCAST, WEREN'T YOU!
UHH...
...MAKE YOU WANNA BE ONE, TOO?
DOESN'T THE SIGHT OF THE OFFICIAL STATE ONMYO MAGES SHOWING OFF THEIR SKILLS...
YOU CAN'T TELL ME IT DOESN'T!
I MEAN, HARU-TORA...
YOU'RE A DESCENDANT OF THE ABE NO SEIMEI!
THE ELITEST OF THE ELITE!

A MEMBER OF THE TSUCHIMIKADO HOUSEHOLD!
ORIGINATORS OF THE ONMYO...
I'M A TSUCHIMIKADO, BUT I'M JUST A SON FROM A BRANCH HOUSE.
AND I'M NOT EVEN A SPIRIT SEER.
I CAN'T SENSE SPIRITUAL PRESENCES AT ALL.
HOKUTO...
CRUNCH
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?
I DON'T HAVE THE TALENT TO BE AN ONMYO MAGE!
BUT THE RIGHT SPELL COULD TEACH YOU TO SENSE THEM! HARUTORA, YOUR DAD'S AN ONMYO MAGE DOCTOR... ISN'T THAT RIGHT, TOJI?
WELL, YEAH...IF ANYONE COULD DO IT, HE COULD.
I TOLD YOU, I DON'T NEED IT!!

I DON'T FEEL LIMITED OR ANYTHING.
BESIDES...
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE MY FAMILY WAS THE "ELITE." THESE DAYS, WE'RE MORE LIKE--
EXACTLY!
YOU'VE GOTTA BECOME A GREAT ONMYO MAGE AND RESTORE THEIR GLORY!!
LISTEN, YOU...
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG PERSON.
!
YOU DON'T MEAN...
STARE...
YEAH.
THAT GIRL IS CRAZY TALENTED, UNLIKE ME.
WE'RE THE SAME AGE, BUT SHE'S ALREADY BEEN CHOSEN FOR THE NEXT HEAD OF THE TSUCHIMIKADO CLAN...
...AND THIS SPRING, SHE'S TRANSFERRING TO AN ONMYO PREP SCHOOL IN TOKYO THAT'S FULL OF ELITE STUDENTS.
THAT GIRL FROM THE MAIN HOUSE?
GULP
SHE'S MILES BEYOND A BUNCH OF CRAM-SCHOOL STUDENT ONMYO MAGES FROM NOWHERESVILLE
JUST LET HER HANDLE IT.
What?
DOESN'T THAT BOTHER YOU?!
NO WAY!

DO YOU REALLY THINK...
HUH?
...REALLY?
THANKS TO HER, NOBODY HAS ANY WEIRD EXPECTATIONS FOR ME, AND I CAN RELAX!
...EXPECTS ANYTHING FROM YOU, HARUTORA?
...NOT ONE SINGLE PERSON...
...WRONG...
BA-DUMP
HUH...?
WELL, YEAH, NOBODY..
THROB
YOU'RE WRONG!

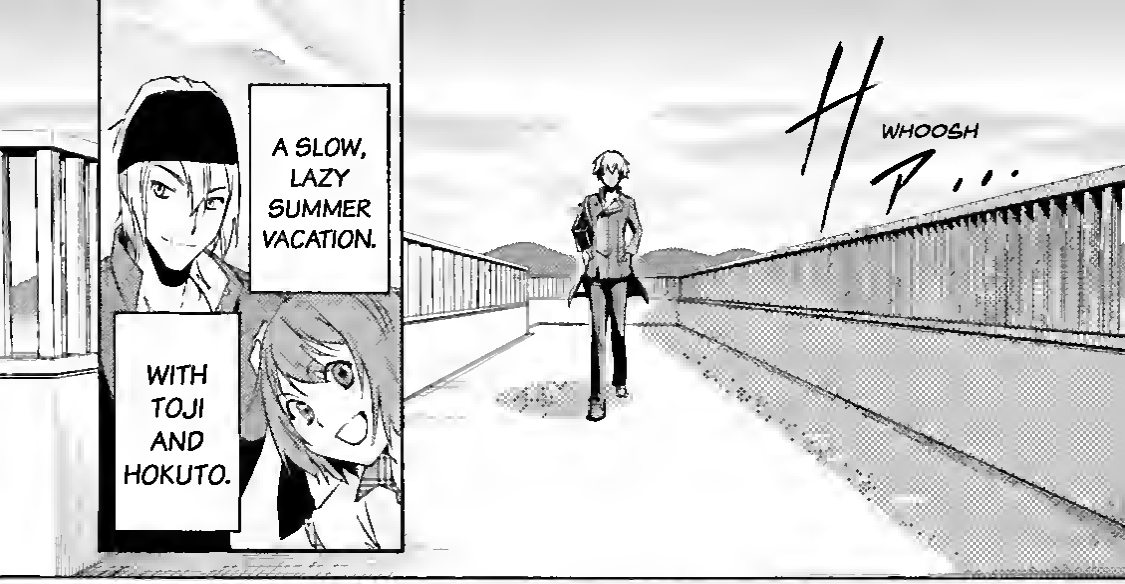
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU WET YOUR PANTS!
Snerk
SHUT UP!
WAUGH!
SPLAT
IT'S DRIPPING.
HARU-TORA?
HUH?
OH! TOJI, YOU MOVED HERE IN THE SPRING, SO THIS'LL BE YOUR FIRST TIME AT THE FIREWORKS SHOW, WON'T IT?
"—REEEE
HEY, ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH HAVING A THIRD WHEEL ALONG?
Yeah
"—SCREEEE
Didn't you go together last year, and the year before?
LIKE WHERE WE'RE GONNA MEET UP TOMORROW
STREEETCH
THAT'S ENOUGH CAREER COUNSELING LET'S THINK ABOUT SOMETHING CLOSER TO HOME
Th-thanks
Here.
HEE HEE
ANYWAY..
"—REEEE
HUH? WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?
Huh?!
I SEE WHY SHE CALLS YOU STUPID-TORA.
RIGHT?!
"—SCREEEE
YOU'RE SO A HA HA HA!
JUST "PALS", HUH...?
HMPH!
GLANCE
OHH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, A "THIRD WHEEL"? SHE'S JUST A PAL, RIGHT?
Ho ha ha!
MMPH..

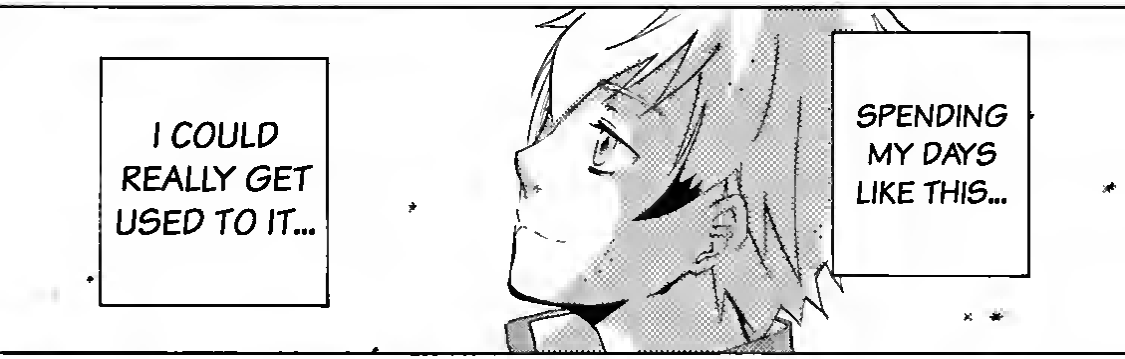
I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT "PEACE"...
...OR YOU COULD CALL IT "BOREDOM".
EITHER WAY.
Hah...
ANOTHER DAY OF... WELL...
Okay, later!
SO, WHAT, YOU CAN'T STAND HER MAKING YOU LOOK STUPID?
NAH, I THINK SHE'S MOSTLY MAKING HERSELF LOOK STUPID.
Ha ha!
GOOD POINT.
I don't get the point of it.
SHE JUST STARTED YAMMERING ON AND ON ABOUT IT THIS YEAR.
LIKE THAT? YOU MEAN...
THE "BE AN ONMYO MASE!" THING?
YEAH...
BUT THAT HOKUTO...
So annoying
WHY DID SHE HAVE TO GET LIKE THAT?
THAT GREAT SPIRIT DISASTER THING...
.....
IF YOU ASK ME...IT SEEMS LIKE MY BIG-DEAL ANCESTOR CAUSED IT.
BECAUSE OF THAT YAKO TSUCHIMIKADO GUY, HUH?
THE TSUCHIMIKADO CLAN... WE'RE MORE LIKE OUTCASTS THAN ELITE...
SHE REALLY DOESN'T GET IT.

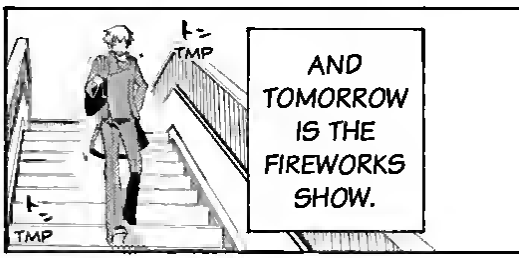
ANYWAY, HARUTORA.
YOU... REALLY DON'T WANT TO BE ONE AT ALL?
HUH?
WHO KNOWS?
THAT GIRL'S A REAL MYSTERY.
MAYBE SHE KNOWS ABOUT YAKO, TOO?
BUT SHE GOES TO A DIFFERENT SCHOOL FROM US, AND SHE STILL KNOWS ALL THIS STUFF SOMEHOW...
.....
WELL... YEAH... WHEN I WAS A KID.
SIGH...
FORGET TALENT, I'M ASKING IF YOU WANT TO.
COME ON...!
NOT YOU, TOO?! YOU KNOW I HAVEN'T GOT THE TALENT FOR IT!
BUT IT WAS JUST WHEN I WAS A KID.
MY PARENTS NEVER TRIED TO FORCE ME INTO IT, EITHER.
I WAS REALLY FIRED UP ABOUT IT FOR A LITTLE WHILE, BUT...
IT WAS ALREADY DECIDED, SO WHY FIGHT IT?
I ALWAYS THOUGHT I'D BE AN ONMYO MAGE. IT SEEMED NATURAL.
DECIDED?
YEAH... IT WAS KIND OF A TRADITION.

BUT TIME GOES BY, AND THOSE CHILDHOOD DREAMS...
YOU FORGET 'EM, IN THE END.
IT'S LIKE THAT FOR EVERYBODY, RIGHT?
YOU WANT TO BE A SPORTS STAR, OR AN ASTRONAUT...
COME ON, THOUGH.
DUDE, NOW YOU'RE CREEPING ME OUT!
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT USING TALISMANS.
I THINK YOU DO HAVE THE TALENT.
WHAT?!
HMM?
THANKS TO MY BAD LUCK.
AND I NEVER RUN OUT OF FRESH WOUNDS TO PRACTICE ON.
SIGH...
I CAN'T SENSE ENERGY, SO I JUST GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS.
I JUST LEARNED FROM WATCHING MY DAD, SINCE HE'S AN ONMYO DOCTOR.
Oh.
HEALING TALISMANS?

DON'T YOU START CALLING ME THAT, TOO!
HEY!
WELL, THIS IS MY STOP SEE YOU TOMORROW!
Ha ha ha!
WHA--
YOU DO HAVE SOME GOOD POINTS, STUPID-TORA.
HUH?
SIGH...
JEEZ...
.....
CLUMP
DO THEY REALLY WANT ME TO BE AN ONMYO MAGE THAT
IT JUST NEVER ENDS.


A SLOW, LAZY SUMMER VACATION.
WITH TOJI AND HOKUTO.
WHOOSH
H
A...


I COULD REALLY GET USED TO IT...
SPENDING MY DAYS LIKE THIS...


トン
TMP
トン
TMP
AND TOMORROW IS THE FIREWORKS SHOW.

THAT'LL BE LOTS OF FU—

OH...
...HM?

...HM?

OH...

NA...
NATSUME?
WHY ARE YOU...?
...YOU SHOULDN'T BE IN TOKYO...
OH...

IT'S... GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
HARU-TORA.
SWISH

HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA BE HERE FOR?
R-RIGHT, IT'S SUMMER VACATION!
Hm?
...AH

HUH...
SO YOU CAN'T STAY MORE THAN A WEEK?
W-WOW... THAT'S AN ELITE ACADEMY, ALL RIGHT.
BARELY ANY VACA-
IT'S NOT THAT.
WE DO HAVE A BIT MORE VACATION, BUT...
I HAVE...
...QUITE A LOT OF THINGS TO DO, BACK THERE.
THROB
...OH.
I...I SEE.
.....
Y-YOU... YOU'VE GOT IT PRETTY ROUGH, HUH?
I HAVEN'T HAD ANY TROUBLE WITH THE CLASSES.
IT'S MORE THE "TRADITION" THAT...
FLINCH
UM.
NO, FORGET I...
S-SO, UH... DID YOU MAKE ANY FRIENDS?
THERE MUST BE ALL KINDS OF COOL PEOPLE THERE...

MAKE... FRIENDS?
WHAT? YOU STILL DON'T HAVE ANY?
YOU ALWAYS WERE BAD WITH PEOPLE.
THEY'RE NOT BULLYING YOU OR ANYTHING, ARE THEY?
Ha ha!
NOT AT ALL. IF YOU HAVE ENOUGH SHEER TALENT, NO ONE WILL TAKE YOU LIGHTLY.
FWISH
.....
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT.
Ha ha ha!
WITH THAT ATTITUDE, IT'LL BE HARD TO MAKE ANY FRIENDS, RIGHT?
HMPH!
HAVE YOU FORMED ANY PROFITABLE FRIENDSHIPS?
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, HARUTORA?
P-PROFITABLE?
H-HOW WOULD I "PROFIT" FROM MY PALS?
THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF FRIENDSHIP...
...IS TO COMPETE AND LEARN FROM EACH OTHER IN A FRIENDLY RIVALRY.
A FRIENDSHIP WITHOUT THAT IS MERELY A HABITUAL WASTE OF YOUR DAY.

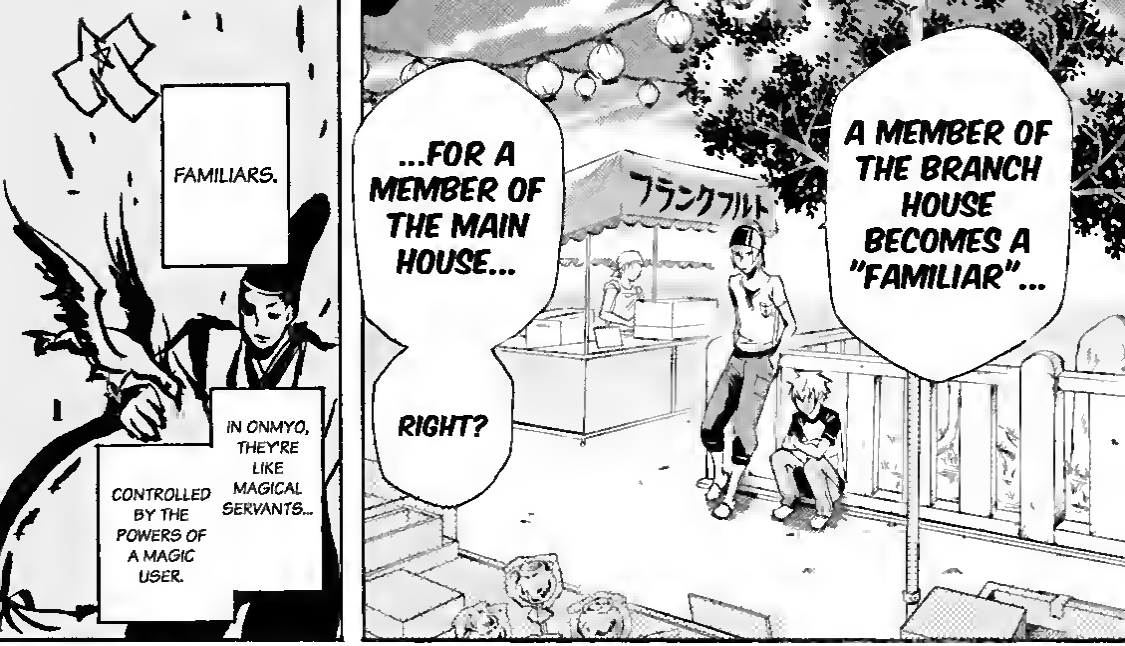
YOU'RE SO HAPPY TO LIVE A POINTLESS LITTLE LIFE, HARUTORA...
I IMAGINE YOU'VE MADE SOME POINTLESS LITTLE FRIENDS, TOO.
I HAVE A DUTY AS THE NEXT HEAD OF THE TSUCHI-MIKADO CLAN.
I CANNOT AFFORD TO WASTE MY DAYS IN USELESSNESS...
AND I HAVE NO TIME FOR USELESS FRIENDS, EITHER.
HEY!
GLARE
Ah!
!!
HMPH!
...I...I HAVE...

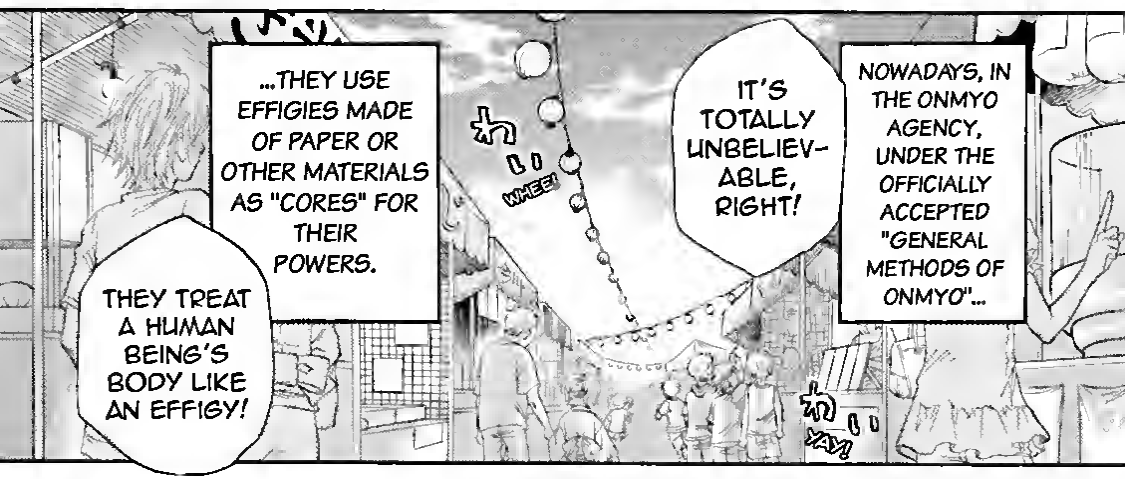
HMPH...
UNLIKE YOU.
.....
I...
FUME...
AM I SUPPOSED TO LET THAT GO BECAUSE YOU'RE A GENIUS?
OR FOR YOUR NOBLE INTENTIONS?
ANYONE CAN SPEAK THE TRUTH, REGARDLESS OF GENIUS...OR MEDIOCRITY.
...UGH.

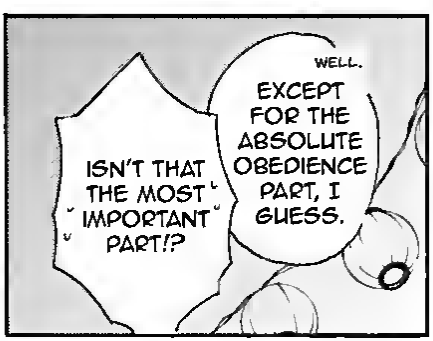
YOU'RE SUCH A BRAT...!
MUTTER
BLUSH!
HUMPH! DON'T WORRY.
SQUEEZE
I'M NOT HERE TO TELL YOU TO TURN OVER A NEW LEAF, HARUTORA.
DO AS YOU LIKE.
FLOUNCE
THE TSUCHI-MIKADO CLAN. OUR CLAN...
I CAN PROTECT IT ON MY OWN!

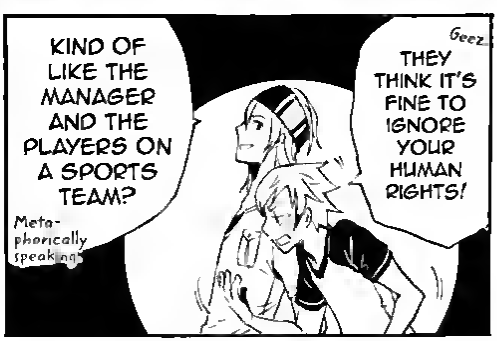
GOOD NIGHT!
SWISH
YOU'RE WRONG!
.....
DAMMIT...

WHOA.
HOW LAME.
WHAM!
WE'VE GOT THIS "TRADITION," YOU KNOW?
...THAT'S OLD FAMILIES FOR YOU, THOUGH.
YOU'RE THE WORST WHEN IT COMES TO DEALING WITH GIRLS.
BETTER LEAVE YOU BEHIND IF I TRY TO TALK TO ANY.
.....
.....
SLUMP


FAMILIARS.
IN ONMYO, THEY'RE LIKE MAGICAL SERVANTS...
CONTROLLED BY THE POWERS OF A MAGIC USER.
...FOR A MEMBER OF THE MAIN HOUSE...
RIGHT?
A MEMBER OF THE BRANCH HOUSE BECOMES A "FAMILIAR"...
フランクフルト


...THEY USE EFFIGIES MADE OF PAPER OR OTHER MATERIALS AS "CORES" FOR THEIR POWERS.
THEY TREAT A HUMAN BEING'S BODY LIKE AN EFFIGY!
WHEE!
IT'S TOTALLY UNBELIEV-ABLE, RIGHT!
NOWADAYS, IN THE ONMYO AGENCY, UNDER THE OFFICIALLY ACCEPTED "GENERAL METHODS OF ONMYO"...
YAY!


WELL.
EXCEPT FOR THE ABSOLUTE OBEDIENCE PART, I GUESS.
ISN'T THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT PART!?


KIND OF LIKE THE MANAGER AND THE PLAYERS ON A SPORTS TEAM?
Meta-phorically speaking.
Geez.
THEY THINK IT'S FINE TO IGNORE YOUR HUMAN RIGHTS!

GLARE
RUMBLE
I COULD NEVER DO IT...
ABSOLUTE OBEDIENCE TO THAT NATSUME...?
"I'M ALL ALONE."
WASN'T THAT WHAT SHE WAS TRYING TO TELL YOU?
WHAT!?
IMAGINE BEING THE FAMILIAR OF THAT STUCK-UP, GRUMPY...
NAH.
SHE'S JUST HONEST, THAT'S ALL.
IN A WAY, NOT BEING A SPIRIT SEER MIGHT HAVE SAVED MY ASS.
I CAN PROTECT IT ON MY OWN!
DOOOOM...
HEART-BROKEN? BY WHO?
HEY, I'M NOT HEART-BROKEN--
DON'T GET SO DOWN, HARU-TORA.
WE ALL GET OUR HEARTS BROKEN S--
...IT CAN'T...
.....
...BUT...

...TO...?
GLUH!
THAT VOICE...
HOKU...
...UH...
BUH?!
.....
UHH...H-HOKUTO, YOU'RE... LATE?
OH!
AHEM.
AHEM!

UHH... YOUR CLOTHES, UM...WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
IT'S A FESTIVAL, SO I THOUGHT I'D WEAR A YUKATA*.
WHAT'S WRONG?!
* TRADITIONAL LIGHT SUMMER KIMONO
N-NOTHING'S WRONG, IT'S JUST...
OH, MAN...
TWITCH
DOOOOM
NOT LIKE YOU...?
OR, I DUNNO.. ABNORMAL?
I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES... NO!
I MEAN, IT'S A REAL SHOCK...
I...I, UH...
BUT!
DOOOOM...
IT REALLY...
...IT SUITS YOU!
!
SSSSS...
R... REALLY?!
GLEAM

.....
THANK YOU.
あせ SWEAT
SWEAT あせ
Y-Y-YEAH! YOU LOOK MORE GROWN-UP...
AND ALL, UH, SUMMERY.
FLICK -ER
はぁ
GREAT!
C'MON, YOU TWO, LET'S GET GOING.
LOOK, LOOK!
HARU-TORA!

COTTON CANDY! OMIGOD, I WANT SOME!
MUNCH
MUNCH
STOMP
WHICH MASK SUITS ME BEST?
THE CLOWN.
STOMP
OWOWOWOW! IT WAS A JOKE!
SMACK
DON'T RUN AT FULL SPEED IN A YUKATA!
I FOUND THE GOLDFISH CATCHING BOOTH!
DASH
STOMP
SHE LOOKED SO SWEET AND GENTLE... FOR ABOUT A SECOND.
IF SOMEBODY FROM SCHOOL SEES US HERE...
.....
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
WILT
Nah, she's even worse.
SIGHHHH
.....
.....
THEN SHE WENT RIGHT BACK TO BEING GOOD OLD HOKUTO, HUH?

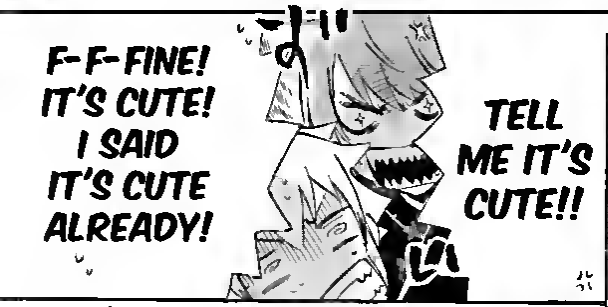
たこ焼
I WONDER IF NATSUME'S COMING?
ACTUALLY, HAS SHE EVER EVEN...
...BEEN TO A SUMMER FESTIVAL?
SHE COULD BE ALL ALONE RIGHT NOW...
HARU-TORA!
HUH?
射
THIS LOOKS PRETTY FUN!!
Whoo!
A SHOOTING GALLERY? THAT'S OLD SCHOOL!
HEY, YOU KNOW, THERE'S A TRICK TO THESE BOOTHS!
YOU AIM FOR THE CLOSEST LIGHT-WEIGHT---
HERE GOES!
BANG!
Ah!
I MISSED.
LISTEN WHEN PEOPLE TALK TO YOU!

BUT I WANT THAT ONE!
OH, MAN...
ANOTHER HEAVY ONE...
MUNCH MUNCH
BANG!
BANG!
THAT'S WHY---
Ah!
I MISSED AGAIN!
AWWW. NOT AGAIN!
Awww!
GET IT FOR ME, HARU-TORA!!
Biwuh?!
WHY ME?!
I'M TERRIBLE AT THIS...
GLARE
Gahh!
FINE, FINE!
BUT DON'T GET MAD IF I MISS!!
CHK-CHK
THIS IS MY LAST SHOT, OKAY?
IF IT'S NO GOOD, WE'RE GIVING UP!
.....
A FEW MINUTES LATER...
MY...
...THOU-SAND YEN...
WELL, THAT WAS A BUST.
Awww

I TOLD YOU, NO TALKING!
IF YOU GET IT FOR ME...
NGH...
DON'T TALK TO ME RIGHT NOW.
PSST
HEY. HARU-TORA?
I'LL...
...GIVE YOU A KISS.
CLICK
BANG!
SMACK!

YOU DID IT!!
Whoa-ha!
HO...
HOKU... TO?
BA-DUMP!
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
BA-DUMP!
SNICKER
I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT YOU MEAN.
SNICKER
WHEN DID YOU LEARN A TRICK LIKE--!
URK!
SMIRK
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, HARU-TORA?
HERE!
I JUST WANTED THIS PART.
IT'S OKAY.
A BUBBLE BLOWING KIT??
WHAT IS IT?
シャボン玉
BUBBLE KIT

OH...


F-F-FINE! IT'S CUTE! I SAID IT'S CUTE ALREADY!
TELL ME IT'S CUTE!!

Huh?
ISN'T IT CUTE?
...UH...
The color matches my sash
IT'S CUTE, ISN'T IT?
UHH...
SPIN

GLARE
YOU'RE VERY CUTE!!
YEAH! REALLY, REALLY!
REALLY?

?!
YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST SHUT UP AND SAID I WAS CUTE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
WAIT, YOU...
NEVER MESS WITH A PRETTY GIRL'S HEART, STUPID-TORA!
Hee!
I WIN!
...AND MADE ME BLOW MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEN ON THAT CHEAP-ASS RIBBON?
VICTORY!♥
STARE
YOU WENT TO ALL THAT TROUBLE JUST TO GET ME TO CALL YOU "CUTE"...
BUT... THANK YOU.
I'LL TREASURE IT.
PAT PAT
CLUMP
FLOAT

WOW!
YAY, BUBBLES!!
AH!
WHEE!
EEE!
YAY!
THAT'S RIGHT!
WAIT A SECOND, OKAY?
OH!
HEY, HOKUTO!
WE SHOULD GET TO THE RIVERBANK BEFORE THE FIREWORKS START!
GEEZ, SERIOUSLY?
WHAT A FLAKE...
?
HOKUTO!?
DASH
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!!

WHAT'S WITH HER?
LET'S GO FIND OUT.
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
AH...
FOUND HER.
EEK!
!!!
WHAT'RE YOU UP TO?
* USED TO MAKE WISHES AT SHINTO SHRINES.
FLINCH
HARU-TORA?!
I T-T-T-TOLD YOU TO WAIT...
A PRAYER BOARD*?
WHY ARE YOU HIDING...

春虎が陰陽師になりますように
I WISH FOR HARUTORA TO BECOME AN ONMYO MAGE.
RUSTLE
YOU...
YOU REALLY CAN'T STAND HOW I LIVE MY LIFE, CAN YOU?
EVEN AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
FLINCH
JUST GIVE IT A REST ALREADY!
UNLIKE YOU.
BUT...
MAYBE I AM...
...WASTING MY TIME JUST DOING WHATEVER.
YOU TOO, HUH?
I CANNOT AFFORD TO WASTE MY DAYS IN USELESSNESS
AND I HAVE NO TIME FOR USELESS FRIENDS EITHER
NO! I-I WAS JUST DOING IT FOR YOU!!

I...DON'T WANNA RUIN THEM.
I'VE COME TO LIKE THESE GOOD-FOR-NOTHING DAYS.
HOKUTO.
BUT...YOU DO... DON'T YOU?
HUH.
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.
LUNGE
I-I...
.....
.....

!!!
SNAP!
AH!
BAM!
.....
SQUEEZE
LUNGE
OHH...
GLARE
HARU-TORA...
YOU...

MORON!!
STOMP
CLAT-TER
CLAT-TER
DAMMIT!
WHUMP
...!!
...SHE'S GONE.
.....

YOU JUST HANDLED IT LIKE CRAP.
.....
.....
SLUMP
NAH, IT WAS HOKUTO'S.
WAS THAT ONE... MY FAULT, TOO?
HEY, TOJI...
RUSTLE...
HOKUTO...
IF YOU'RE DE-PRESSED...
SHE MUST BE FEELING EVEN WORSE, HUH.
CUT IT OUT. I'M SERIOUSLY DEPRESSED HERE.
YOU SLY FOX.
BUT HEY, WAY TO GET YOUR HEART BROKEN TWICE IN TWO DAYS.
PAT
I WENT TOO FAR, DIDN'T I?
YEAH, I GUESS NOT.
RUSTLE...
NAH, I'LL PASS.
I COULD SOCK YOU A GOOD ONE.
NEED SOME MOTIVATION TO CHASE HER DOWN?
SO, WHAT NOW?
YOU DON'T PULL YOUR PUNCHES, YOU EX-PUNK.

...WERE THE CAREFREE DAYS I SPENT WITH TOJI AND HOKUTO.
THE ONE THING I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE...
SHE'S...
...REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME.
WHOOM!
RIGHT THEN, I'D BETTER HURRY--
?!!
RUMBLE
...WH...?!

ARE YOU...
...THE INFAMOUS CHILD PRODIGY?
THE WHAT...?!
HMM?
WHOOSH

WHOOSH

ARE YOU...
...THE INFAMOUS CHILD PRODIGY?
HMM?
THE WHAT...?!

ALLOW ME TO CUT TO THE CHASE.
NATSUME TSUCHI-MIKADO.
I'VE COME...

...TO RECRUIT YOU...
FWEE!

END OF CHAPTER 1

TOKYO RAVENS

CHAPTER 2
PRODIGY
IF I CAN PROVIDE THE RIGHT CONDITIONS...
I KNOW THE RITUAL WILL SUCCEED.
I JUST NEED THE MASTER AND THE ALTAR.
IT'LL WORK.
THE PREVIOUS DAY - ONMYO AGENCY INTERNAL RESEARCH BUILDING, TOKYO
I KNOW MY BROTHER--
BAM!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, STATE ONMYO MAGE FIRST CLASS SUZUKA DAIRENJI!

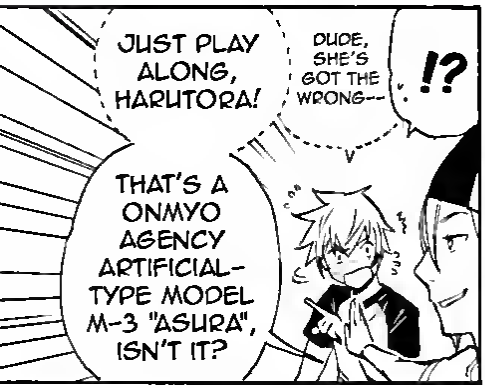
CLATTER
YOU ARE UNDER ARREST ON SUSPICION OF USE OF FORBIDDEN MAGIC!!
UNDER ONMYO LAW...
BUT...A BUNCH OF FOOLS LIKE YOU...
SO, YOU'VE BEEN INVESTIGATING ME?
HEE
THE MAGICAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU?
...DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN CATCH SOMEONE LIKE ME?

CHAPTER 2
PRODIGY

BOOM!
THE NEXT HEAD OF THE TSUCHIMIKADO CLAN, NATSUME TSUCHIMIKADO.
I'VE COME TO RECRUIT YOU...
...FOR A LITTLE EXPERIMENT OF MINE.
POINT
...HUH?
SORRY, BUT...

Whaddaya mean, "you?!"
Wait, is it really him? He's a Tsuchi-mikado?!
NOD NOD
LOOK, I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT...

WHAT? YOU?!
HE'S THE TSUCHI-MIKADO KID.
I'M JUST A NORMAL PERSON.


JUST PLAY ALONG, HARUTORA!
DUDE, SHE'S GOT THE WRONG--
!?
THAT'S A ONMYO AGENCY ARTIFICIAL-TYPE MODEL M-3 "ASURA", ISN'T IT?

BUT I'M NOT NATSUME, I'M HARUTORA--
YEAH, I'M A TSUCHI-MIKADO...
WAVE
NATSUME, LOOK! HER FAMILIAR!

WAVE

YOU MUST BE ONE OF THE DOZEN WHO PASSED...
...THE STATE ONMYO FIRST CLASS EXAMS.

? ?
AND...I THINK I'VE SEEN YOUR FACE IN A MAGAZINE SOMEWHERE.

THE YOUNGEST OF THE SO-CALLED TWELVE DIVINE GENERALS...
POOF
SUZUKA DAIRENJI, THE PRODIGY.
I'D HEARD THERE WAS ANOTHER CHILD GENIUS BESIDES ME, BUT...
じぃぃぃ
STAAAARE
HOWEVER...
grumble
WAS IT REALLY JUST A RUMOR AFTER ALL?
grumble
HEY!
じぃ
STARE
HE LOOKS A LOT STUPIDER THAN I IMAGINED.
grumble
じぃ
STARE
HUH ?!
THE TWELVE DIVINE GENERALS!? HER ?!
MY...
YOU'RE VERY INFORMED, FOR A "NORMAL PERSON."
YOU'RE RIGHT, I'M SUZUKA DAIREINJI
えへん
HEH HEH

C'MON, TOJI, WE CAN'T JUST LET HER THINK I'M NATSUME, CAN WE?!
WHO CARES? SHE'S THE CLUELESS ONE. DON'T YOU THINK IT'S FUNNY?
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHAT ARE YOU WHISPERING ABOUT?
?
I'M JUST HARU--
I THINK THERE'S BEEN A MISTAKE...I'M NOT A CHILD GENIUS!!
MAN, YOU'RE A CELEBRITY EVEN IN YOUR OWN FIELD, AREN'T YOU, NATSUME?
THUMP!
BOOM!
I WOULDN'T BE OUT HERE IN THE BOONDOCKS IF I DIDN'T WANT SOMETHING.
I JUST TOLD YOU, I NEED YOU FOR AN EXPERIMENT.
Huh?!
ARE YOU A MORON?
Why me...?
LISTEN...
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH NATSU--UH, ME?
RUSTLE
...AT THIS SHABBY LITTLE FESTIVAL.
Good thing I sent my familiar
RUSTLE
BUT I NEVER EXPECTED TO BUMP INTO YOU ON THE WAY...
...WHEN I WAS JUST STOPPING BY...
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
FLUTTER

LUCKY ME!
THE TSUCHIMIKADO HOME IS JUST COVERED IN ANNOYING BARRIERS.
MUNCH
MUNCH
TA-DAH!
You seriously gonna eat all that?
YOU SURE LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN AT THIS "SHABBY" FESTIVAL.
WHOA...
What?
HOW RUDE!!
SO.
WHAT KIND OF EXPERIMENT?
MY INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY AS A RESEARCHER WAS PIQUED! GOT A PROBLEM?!
FUME!
IT'S UNUSUAL IN ITS SHEER SHABBINESS!!
.....
MUNCH
AH!
OH, RIGHT.
MUNCH
WHILE I'M ALSO A GENIUS AT MAGIC...
...I'M STILL A MINOR, SO I'M ALWAYS GETTING SHUFFLED AROUND THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT.
SO, LIKE, WHILE I WAS DOING MY RESEARCH...
GULP
I GOT TO WANTING TO TRY IT.

?!
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE MUST KNOW IT?
THE "GREAT RITUAL OF YAKO TSUCHI-MIKADO".
NOW YOU CAN REVIVE YOUR OWN SECRET ARTS AGAIN!
ISN'T IT GREAT?
HUH?
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
THEY COULDN'T CONTROL THOSE METHODS OF HIS...
...SO THEY PRUNED THEM DOWN TO A STUMP, INSTEAD.
OUR MODERN GENERAL METHODS OF ONMYO ARE JUST LEFTOVER SCRAPS...
...SIMPLIFIED FROM THE GENIUS OF YAKO'S IMPERIAL ONMYO MAGIC BY SOMEONE ELSE.
BECAUSE YOU PERFORMED IT SUCCESSFULLY ONCE...
BOOM!
BUT YOU WILL REMEMBER THEM.
YOU MAY HAVE LOST YOUR MEMORIES OF YOUR PAST LIFE...

THE TAIZAN FUKUN RITUAL.
THE ULTIMATE SOUL TECHNIQUE...
SHUDDER
SHE'S...?!
FWISH
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, SUZUKA DAIRENJI!

GLEAM
I ARREST YOU IN THE NAME...
...OF ONMYO LAW!!
?!
WH-WH-WH-WHAT!!?
Whistle
THAT FAMILIAR'S A MAGIC SEARCH-AND-CAPTURE MODEL.
A MODEL W.A.-1 "SWALLOW-TAIL"!
NOT THE FAMILIAR, THE MAGIC USER--
WE'VE ALREADY GOT YOU SURROUNDED!
TRAMP
TRAMP
TRAMP
SURRENDER NOW!

GET AWAY?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
VWOO-OOM
BUT FINE THEN. I'LL SHOW YOU...
WHISH!!
BUT THIS TIME YOU WON'T GET AWAY!
DEFY US AT THE RISK OF YOUR OWN LIFE!
TREMBLE
OUR STAFF BACK AT THE AGENCY OFFICES MAY HAVE LOST YOU...
HOW ANNOYING.
THEY'VE ALREADY SENT FRESH TROOPS AFTER ME?
Just small fry, though...
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
SHE'S ONE OF THE TWELVE DIVINE GENERALS, SHOULDN'T THEY BE ON HER..
IS THAT THE... M-MAGICAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU!?
I've never seen 'em in person before!

HOW ANNOYING.
THEY'VE ALREADY SENT FRESH TROOPS AFTER ME?
Just small fry, though...

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
IS THAT THE... M-MAGICAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU!?
I've never seen 'em in person before!
SHE'S ONE OF THE TWELVE DIVINE GENERALS, SHOULDN'T THEY BE ON HER...

GET AWAY?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
VWOO-OOM
BUT THIS TIME YOU WON'T GET AWAY!
TREMBLE
OUR STAFF BACK AT THE AGENCY OFFICES MAY HAVE LOST YOU...
DEFY US AT THE RISK OF YOUR OWN LIFE!
WHIS-H!
BUT FINE THEN. I'LL SHOW YOU...

WHOO-OOM!
CRUNCH
NOW!
POP!
ORIGINAL FAMILIAR OF THE TWELVE DIVINE GENERALS!
SCREE-EE!
!!
CRAP! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

POP!
ORIGINAL FAMILIAR OF THE TWELVE DIVINE GENERALS!
EEE-EE!
!!
CRAP! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
NOW!

WHOO-OOM!
CRUNCH

WINK
Okay then!
TOO HOT? HOW ABOUT I COOL YOU DOWN WITH A WATER TALISMAN?
DING
MY DARLING COWORKERS. ♥
RUMBLE
HARU-TORA, HURRY UP!
HOLY CRAP! WHAT WAS THAT?!
SPLA-DASH!

WHOOSH
ACK, TOJI!
WHOOSH
WHAT THE HELL, IT'S A MAGICAL WAR ZONE OUT...
gasp!
FWOOSH!
GAHH!
GROOOAN
IT'S NO GOOD!
HER WATER ENERGY'S TOO STRONG!!
RUMBLE
I'LL DAM YOUR TWISTED WATER-POWER!
EARTH BEATS WATER! ORDER!
RUMBLE
WAHH!
AHH!
GOING HOME ALREADY??
GLUH...
SPLASH
?!

RUN, YOU IDIOTS...!
POOF...
HMPH!
IT'S GONE ...?!
OOF?!
WHUMP!

?!
...I'LL BE TAKING YOU WITH ME.
SHWIP!
IT'LL BE A PAIN IF ANYONE ELSE CATCHES UP, SO...
SNAP
YOU SAVED THOSE KI--
sigh
THEY SPOILED THE MOOD ANYWAY. FORGET IT.
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOI--
SOON...
...!?
STOP IT!
MY BROTHER.
SOON WE'LL BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE AGAIN.

LET HARUTORA GO!!
HOKUTO?!
GET BACK, YOU IDIOT--
"HARU-TORA"?
ACK!
DID YOU SAY... "HARU-TORA"?
RUMBLE
ゴゴゴ
I...UH, THAT IS...
WHAT DOES SHE MEAN?
GLARE
CLACK
AGUNA
HMM...?
STOP--
SHUT UP, YOU COW!
AGUNA

"I'M NOT REALLY NATSUME FROM THE HEAD FAMILY..."
"...JUST HARUTORA FROM THE BRANCH FAMILY," HUH? JUST MESSIN' WITH ME, EH??
FINE.
TELL THIS TO THE REAL NATSUME TSUCHI-MIKADO!
I AM ABSOLUTELY GOING TO CAPTURE HIM!
AND YOU HAD BETTER TELL HIM THAT!
GLARE!
THE REAL NATSUME, TO HIS FACE!
GLANCE
GULP
G-GOT IT...
BY THE WAY...
?!
IS THAT YOUR LITTLE GIRLFRIEND?
N-NO!
YANK
HMM?
WELL THEN, DON'T MIND IF I DO...

...MMM...
ドド
WHUMP
SMIRK
GOT IT?
MAKE SURE AND TELL HIM, OKAY?

WHOOSH!
THANKS, DARLING! ♪
FWEE...
SHOOM..
BOOM!

BLEH!
UGH...
ARE...
ARE YOU OKAY, HOKUTO?!
HOKUTO?
DASH
HOKU...
DRIP DRIP...
たた...

AND WHEN I COME BACK, YOU'RE K...K-KISSING THAT GIRL!
Hic!
YOU DIDN'T EVEN FOLLOW ME AFTER ALL THAT...
Hic!
HARUTORA, YOU JERK!
Hic!
YOU...
YOU JERK...
Hic!
W-WEREN'T YOU WATCHING? SHE ATTACKED ME!
ANYWAY, WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
HIC!
SNIFF
SOB
WHUMP!
OOF!
I'M THE ONE WHO GOT KISSED--
DON'T YOU GET IT, STUPID-TORA!?
I'M CRYING BECAUSE I'M SAD!

BECAUSE THE PERSON I LOVE WAS KISSING SOMEBODY ELSE!
FWEE...

BA-BOOM!
FWISH
.....
STOMP

WHOOOOSH
STATE ONMYO PREPARATORY SCHOOL, FIFTH REGIONAL CAMPUS
...HOKUTO STILL HASN'T GOTTEN IN TOUCH WITH YOU, HUH?
YEAH...
THE STORM'LL GET REALLY BAD TONIGHT.. WE'RE ALREADY CATCHING IT, THOUGH.
I HEARD... THERE'S A TYPHOON COMING.
THROB
THE PERSON I LOVE...
I TEXTED HER, BUT IT DIDN'T GO THROUGH.
I'M GOING OVER TO THE MAIN HOUSE LATER.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR OLD FRIEND?
RUMBLE
I DON'T NEED THE DETAILS, JUST...
...AS LONG AS SHE'S OKAY.
SIGH
.....

.....
PROBABLY WISE. THAT LITTLE BRAT SEEMED PRETTY UNSTOPPABLE.
SHE...
WELL, IT SOUNDED LIKE SHE WANTED TO USE THE RITUAL...
...TO BRING HER BROTHER BACK TO LIFE OR SOMETHING.
BUT IT CAN'T REALLY BRING PEOPLE BACK TO LIFE, CAN IT?
THERE'S NO SUCH--
...I CHECKED.
AFTER ALL THAT, I DID SOME RESEARCH, BUT...
YOU KNOW ABOUT THE FINAL RITUAL THAT YAKO TSUCHIMIKADO PERFORMED, RIGHT?
HUH?
YEAH... SORT OF.
NOBODY KNOWS WHAT IT WAS, BUT WHEN IT FAILED, THE GREAT SPIRITUAL DISASTER STRUCK TOKYO...
AND OUR REPUTATION WAS RUINED--
IT WAS THAT RITUAL.

THE TAIZAN FUKUN RITUAL.
THE ONE THAT BRAT WAS TALKING ABOUT.
IT... WHAT...?
HE USED A LOST SOUL INCANTATION.
BUT SUPPOSEDLY THERE ARE A LOT OF ONMYO MAGES WHO THINK IT DID SUCCEED.
HUH?!
WHOOOOSH
"USING HIS GREATEST WORK OF MAGIC, THE GENIUS ONMYO MAGE..."
"...YAKO TSUCHIMIKADO, CAUSED HIS SOUL TO BE REINCARNATED."
BUT YAKO WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE DIED FROM THAT RITUAL...
"REINCARNATION," MAN.

YAKO WAS REINCAR-NATED...?
REMEMBER WHAT THAT BRAT SAID?
YOU MAY HAVE LOST YOUR MEMORIES OF YOUR PAST LIFE...
BUT YOU WILL REMEMBER THEM.
BECAUSE YOU PERFORMED IT SUCCESSFULLY ONCE...
WAIT...
SHE SAID "YOU"... IT CAN'T BE!
YEAH.
YOUR PARENTS MUST HAVE KEPT YOU FROM FINDING OUT.
BUT IT'S A FAMOUS RUMOR AMONG ONMYO MAGES...
PLUS, THEY SAY...
"YAKO TSUCHI-MIKADO WAS REINCAR-NATED."

"...AND AS A DESCENDANT OF HIS OWN BLOODLINE, THE TSUCHIMIKADO CLAN."
"INTO A FUTURE WHERE HIS OWN ONMYO MAGE SKILLS WOULD BE FLOURISHING..."
...IS THE REINCARNATION OF YAKO...!?
SO, NATSUME...
YOU TWO!
HOKUTO?
NO--
IT'S A TEXT.
WHAP!
BR-R-R-RING!

...AT SUMMER SCHOOL, HAVE YOU??
ゴゴゴゴゴ
DOOO-OOOM!
WHAP!
YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THAT YOU'RE...
OH.
SSSSS
I'M SORRY FOR CALLING YOU OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A TYPHOON.

FIDGET
NAH...
I'VE GOT SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU IN PERSON, TOO...
FIDGET
...YAKO'S...?
IS SHE REALLY...
HUH?
BLINK
BOW
HUH?
FOR WHAT?
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.
AH!
!!
N-NEVER MIND THAT!
YOUR FACE IS ALL RED...
A cold?
THAT PERSON...
THE OTHER NIGHT,
HARUTORA, YOU WERE ENDANGERED BECAUSE SHE MISTOOK YOU FOR ME...

WHAT, YOU MEAN SUZUKA DAIRENJI?
DO YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?
ABSOLUTELY NOT! THAT PERSON--
RATTLE
OH YEAH, I GUESS SHE DID TAKE ME FOR YOU.
...YOU REALLY DON'T LIKE HER THOUGH, HUH?
I... THAT IS... WELL...
NGH!
I'VE HEARD W-WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT HER.
AHEM
SHE'S HORRID, BUT SINCE SHE'S A "PRODIGY"...
...SHE'S THE YOUNGEST PERSON EVER TO PASS THE FIRST CLASS EXAMS.
SSSSS
I'M GLAD THAT YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.
IF SHE'D FOUND ME, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NOTHING I COULD DO.
Huh?
EVEN YOU?
OF COURSE!!
She's one of the top mages in the country!
BUT YOU'RE...
YOU'RE THE REINCARNATION OF YAKO, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT IS IT?
UM... NOTHING.
SO... WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?

THIS IS WAY BEYOND KID STUFF, RIGHT?
ARE YOU GONNA TALK TO YOUR DAD--
NO.
MY FATHER IS IN TOKYO AT THE MOMENT, WITH YOUR PARENTS.
HUH? YOU MEAN TOGETHER?
I didn't know that!
THEN...YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO TOKYO, TOO--
I CAN'T DO THAT.
BECAUSE OF THE "ALTAR."
Huh?
THE ALTAR?
THE ALTAR OF THE TAIZAN FUKUN RITUAL.
HUH??
THAT RITUAL ORIGINATED WITH ABE NO SEIMEI, AN ANCESTOR OF THE TSUCHIMIKADO CLAN.
I SUSPECT THAT DAIRENJI MAY HAVE ALREADY ARRANGED MOST OF WHAT SHE NEEDS FOR HER PLANS, BUT...
BWUHH?

THERE'S AN ALTAR ON A NEARBY HILL, THE ONE WE CALL THE MOUNTAIN.
SHE MAY BE PLANNING TO PERFORM THE RITUAL THERE
I MUST PROTECT THAT ALTAR.
AS A MEMBER OF THE TSUCHI-MIKADO CLAN...
IT'S A QUESTION OF RESPON-SIBILITY, NOT ABILITY.
I'M THE ONLY ONE HERE NOW.
BUT...YOU JUST SAID THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN...
...TO TOKYO ALREADY.
JUST GO BACK...

BUT I'VE JUST TOLD YOU--
I'LL PROTECT THE ALTAR.
WHAT?
ポカーン
(WUHHH?
THAT BRAT'S AFTER YOU, ISN'T SHE?
BECAUSE SHE NEEDS YOU FOR THIS RITUAL?

IF YOU GO NEAR THAT ALTAR, WON'T YOU BE GIVING HER EXACTLY WHAT SHE NEEDS?
On a silver platter, too!
B-BUT HARUTORA, YOU DON'T HAVE ANY...
IF WE'RE BOTH OUTMATCHED, HOW DOES IT MATTER IF IT'S YOU OR ME?
I'M A TSUCHI-MIKADO, TOO, YOU KNOW.
BUT...
Look
HEALING AND DEFENSE TALISMANS.
I GOT 'EM FROM MY DAD'S EXAM OFFICE.
Ministry-made, too! Crazy high-quality
YOU CAN USE THEM, CAN'T YOU?
.....
HARUTORA...
THAT'S NOT FAIR.

YOU CAN'T JUST USE OUR FAMILY NAME AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
GRRR-RRR
THIS IS THE BEST POSSIBLE TIME.
Come on!
RIGHT?
CHUCKLE...
どぎーん
A-AND HEY...
I MAY HAVE BAD LUCK, BUT THINGS NEVER GET TOO BAD FOR ME!
I'LL BE FINE, SERIOUSLY.
THAT BRAT'S A REAL HANDFUL, BUT...
SHE'S GOT HER CUTE POINTS, TOO.
IF WE JUST TALKED, I BET SHE'D COME AROUND--
トリ
ッ

CLINK
CLINK
SO YOU THINK...
...SHE'S "CUTE"? IS THAT RIGHT?
FROZEN
OH... REALLY?
I'M GOING HOME. ANY FURTHER CONVERSATION WOULD BE USELESS.
H-HEY...
CLATTER
COULD YOU PLEASE SEND ANOTHER TAXI AROUND TO THE SHOP?
HELLO? IT'S ME AGAIN.
BEEP!
YES, RIGHT NOW.
WHAT?
WH-

CLATTER
Ah!
?!
HEY, WHAT...
HARUTORA, STAND DOWN, PLEASE.
B-BUT I HAVEN'T EVEN ASKED YOU WHERE THE ALTAR IS...
THERE'S NO NEED.
THAT LAZY ATTITUDE OF YOURS IS A NUISANCE.
"SHE WAS CUTE, SO SHE'D COME AROUND IF WE TALKED," HUH?
BA-DUMP!
?!
CALM DO--
WAIT A SEC, NATSUME!
SHOOM
W...
SHIVER

WHUMP...
WHA... HARUTO?
UGH...
GHH...
HURGHHH...
?!

FLUTTER
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
NO!!
VWEE-EE!
A FAMILIAR--
SWISH
WHA...?!
PING!
VWEE...

NATSUME!!
END OF CHAPTER 2
WHUMP...

TOKYO
RAVENS

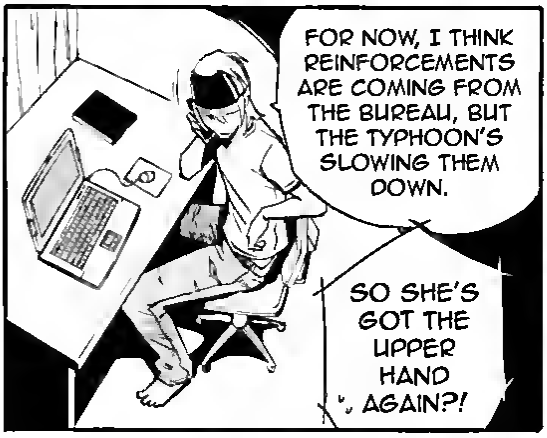
YAKO TSUCHI-MIKADO...
HE WAS CALLED AN UNCOMMON GENIUS AMONG ONMYO MAGES. AT THE END OF WORLD WAR II.
HE SIMULTANEOUSLY CREATED MODERN ONMYO AND CALLED DOWN THE GREAT SPIRITUAL DISASTER ON TOKYO.
CHAPTER 3
CONFESSION
...THE LOST SOUL TECHNIQUE. THE TAIZAN FUKUN RITUAL.
THE CAUSE OF IT ALL WAS...
SHE SEEKS AN ALTAR FOR HER RITUAL, AS WELL AS...
AND NOW ANOTHER HAS APPEARED TO PERFORM THE RITUAL HE ONCE ATTEMPTED.

SSSSS
...THE ONE RUMORED TO BE THE REINCARNATION OF YAKO...
NATSUME!
GASP...
...NATSUME TSUCHIMIKADO, AND THE POWER SHE HOLDS.
HA...
HARU... TORA...
GASP...
TH...
THAT FAMILIAR...
GAH!
I THINK...IT SUCKED OUT MY SPIRITUAL POWERS...

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THEN!
IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
DAMMIT...
I'M... SORRY.
NATSUME...
THIS...HAS TO BE THE WORK...OF SUZUKA DAIRENJI.
NO...YOU HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING.
I'M SORRY! THIS IS ALL MY FAULT...
SHE'S ONE OF THE TWELVE DIVINE GENERALS...
GASP...
I FAILED... TO SEE IT IN TIME.

IF WE GO BACK TO MY HOUSE...THERE ARE TOOLS THERE FOR RESTORING SPIRITUAL POWERS...
NNGH
WE HAVE TO PULL OURSELVES TOGETHER...
...QUICKLY... AND PREPARE TO ENGAGE HER!
GASP...
NATSUME? WHAT...
NOW THAT SHE HAS MY POWERS...
...SHE'LL BEGIN THE RITUAL AT THE ALTAR SOON...
BUT YOU'RE IN NO SHAPE TO...
BR-R-RING!
TOJI?!
HARUTORA, WHAT'S GOING ON?
SSSSS
WELL...
TAXI

WHAT?!
LOOKS LIKE THOSE MAGICAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU GUYS FROM YESTERDAY FIGURED OUT WHERE SHE IS.
WE'VE GOT SOME ACTION HERE, TOO.
I SEE...
THAT EXPLAINS WHY SHE LET YOU GO SO EASILY.


FOR NOW, I THINK REINFORCEMENTS ARE COMING FROM THE BUREAU, BUT THE TYPHOON'S SLOWING THEM DOWN.
SO SHE'S GOT THE UPPER HAND AGAIN?!

SSSSS
THEY... SERIOUSLY?!
Hey, how do you know that?

BUMP!
DON'T GO RUNNING RIGHT INTO A MAGICAL WAR ZONE--
NO, NO, OF COURSE WE WO--
SCREEEEEEE!

SSSSS
I'M TAKING NATSUME HOME.
GOT IT. BUT ISN'T THAT ALTAR RIGHT UP BEHIND HER HOUSE?
WELL, THESE GUYS ARE PROS. WE'LL HAVE TO SEE WHAT THEY CAN DO.
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?

SCREE-EE-EE!
WHOA!
WHAT THE--?!
TH-THERE WAS A... MONSTER!
!!
RUMBLE
IS THAT...
...SUZUKA'S FAMILIAR?!
RATTLE
?!
WHAT HAPPENED, HARUTORA?

?!
WE...RAN RIGHT INTO IT.
UNBELIEV-ABLE... YOU REALLY ARE CURSED, AREN'T YOU?
GET OUT OF THERE, QUICK--
NO.
I'M SENDING NATSUME HOME FIRST.
AND THEN I'M GOING IN AFTER SUZUKA MYSELF.
HUH?!
SSSSS
WHOOSH!
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING? YOU CAN'T TAKE DOWN AN ONMYO MAGE!
I WON'T DO ANYTHING. I'M JUST GOING TO SEE HOW THE FIGHT GOES DOWN.
MORE USEFUL THAN JUST SITTING AROUND WAITING.
WAIT--!
...SEE YA.
BEEP!

THE ONLY THING I CAN DO FOR NATSUME NOW IS...
NOTHING WILL GET ANY BETTER IF WE RUN AWAY LIKE THIS.
SERI-OUSLY, STUPID-TORA!
GULP
THIS.
IT WON'T DO MUCH TO INCREASE HER SPIRITUAL POWERS, BUT...
TMP
CRINKLE
SSSSS
ROAR...
PLEASE, TAKE HER HOME...
...TO THE MAIN HOUSE.

SSSSS
BOOM!
SLP...
TMP TMP TMP
SHMP!

SSSSS
WOBBLE
HOW CARELESS OF YOU, SUZUKA DAIRENJI.
DOESN'T SHE SEEM A LOT WEAKER THAN YESTERDAY?
HUH? SHE'S...
?!
NOW, SURRENDER QUIETLY.
YOU MAY BE A PRODIGY, BUT YOU'LL NEVER BREAK THROUGH AN 8-FORMATION BARRIER.

SO... THAT'S HOW IT IS, HUH?
HAAH...
HAAH...
TREATING A HUMAN BEING LIKE A SPIRITUAL DISASTER...
BUT YOU'VE GOT NO FOLLOW-THROUGH, MY DARLING COWORKERS.
YOU SHOULD HAVE KILLED ME ON THE SPOT, YOU KNOW.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN MY SPECIALTY?
ONMYO MAGIC USED BY YAKO TSUCHIMIKADO HIMSELF...
TECHNIQUE RELEASE...
CRACKLE CRACKLE
WHY DON'T I SHOW IT TO YOU? HIS FAMOUS MILITARY FAMILIAR--
COME ON OUT...

TSUCHI-GUMO!!!
BA-DOOM!
?!
WHA... IT'S AN... ARMORED DEMON SOLDIER?!
CHUNK
IT CAN'T BE!!
HEH...
GET 'EM.
FWAP!

IT...SUCKED OUT THEIR SPIRITUAL POWERS?!
WAUGH
AAH!
AAH!
SHIVER
AHH
WHOOSH!
WAUGH!
BOOM!
FLOP
AWW, OVER SO SOON?
GAH! HOW COULD THIS GET ANY WORSE!!
I HAVE TO GET BACK TO NATSUME--
BR- R- RING!
SHUDDER

BRRRING!
SSSSS
BRRRING!
BRRRING!
FROZEN.
OH.
I... UHH...
YOU AGAIN.
H...
HI!
BRRRING!
BRRRING!

BEEP!
HOKUTO
北斗
R-RING!
R-RING!
N... NAH.
AREN'T YOU GONNA ANSWER IT?
Ha.
THAT WAS MY FIRST KISS, DARLING!
GAVE IT TO YOU CHEAP, DIDN'T I?
Ha.
YOU REALLY DID A NUMBER ON ME, HUH.
THINKING ABOUT HAVING THAT FAMILIAR IN MY GUTS ALL NIGHT GIVES ME THE CREEPS.
FUME
I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU FOLLOW ME AROUND LIKE A STALKER, GOT IT?
YOU'RE USELESS TO ME NOW.
BUT, LOOK, DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.
FUME

OH, I GET IT. YOU'VE BEEN HOLED UP IN A RESEARCH LAB LIKE A NERD, HUH?
You do seem kinda sheltered.
WHAT?!
ANYWAY, YOU WERE NEVER USEFUL IN THE FIRST PLACE.
IF THERE'D JUST BEEN A PHOTO OF NATSUME TSUCHIMIKADO IN THE RESEARCH LAB DATABASE---
GNAW
YOU'RE TICKING ME OFF!!
Ha!
...HMM.
GAH!!
HUH! NAILED IT.
WATCH YOUR MOUTH! DO YOU EVEN REALIZE THE POSITION YOU'RE IN?!
GRRR-RRR!
SSSS
WHO? YOU MEAN CUTE LITTLE ME?
Ha!
YOU'RE SUCH A BRAT!
twitch
DOESN'T MATTER HOW YOU LOOK IF THE INSIDE'S ROTTEN!
... YEAH, THANKS TO YOU.
SERVES YOU RIGHT!
♪
Ah ha ha!
WHERE'S THAT LITTLE COW? DID YOU HAVE A FIGHT?

SNICKER
SOOO, YOU'RE SAYING I LOOK CUTE? OOH, HOW FORWARD!♪
SHUT UP! YOU ARE NEVER GONNA GET A BOYFRIEND!
tsk tsk
THAT'S RIDICULOUS. A BEAUTIFUL, GENIUS ONMYO MAGE?
I'LL BE FIGHTING THE BOYS OFF WITH A STICK!
DON'T BE AN IDIOT! WHO'S GONNA DATE A CRIMINAL?!
COUGH
...
HEY.
CAN'T YOU JUST STOP?
AH...
...!
FLINCH
!!
HUH?!
YOU WANT TO BRING YOUR BROTHER BACK TO LIFE, RIGHT?

I DON'T HAVE ANY BROTHERS OR SISTERS, BUT...
I KNOW HOW YOU MUST FEEL.
SSSSS
WHEN SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY DIES, IT'S NORMAL TO WANT...
...TO BRING THEM BACK.
BUT...
YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE.
WHAT IF YOU BRING HIM BACK, BUT YOU BOTH END UP LOCKED UP?!
SHUT UP! WHO CARES?!
BUT THIS WOULDN'T MAKE HIM HA--
STOP PRETENDING YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE!
I'M SURE YOUR PARENTS WOULDN'T WANT--
Ha!
PAR-ENTS?
I DON'T HAVE ANY.
!
CRUNCH...
FLINCH

HOW DO YOU THINK I GOT TO BE ONE OF THE TWELVE DIVINE GENERALS AT MY AGE?!
I REFUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT TRASH AS MY PARENTS.
THEY WERE JUST USING MY BROTHER AND ME.
HEY, DON'T TALK ABOUT YOUR PA--
THEY'VE BEEN MESSING ME UP SINCE BEFORE I WAS BORN!!!
...!!
HA.
SSSSS
HAAH
HAAH
AND IT WASN'T JUST ONE OR TWO FORBIDDEN SPELLS THEY TESTED!
THEY'RE THE REASON MY BROTHER IS DEAD, I'M SURE OF IT!!

IF I PAY THE RIGHT PRICE, I KNOW THE TAIZAN FUKUN RITUAL WILL WORK.
...THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO SAVE HIM.
MY OWN LIFE.
THE RIGHT PRICE?
I WOULD GIVE UP MY LIFE FOR MY BROTHER'S SAKE!
WELL?! IS THAT ENOUGH TO MAKE THEM HAPPY?! IS IT?!
THAT'S RIGHT!
WHA...

IN THAT CASE, YOU'VE GOT TO STOP.
SHOCKED
SO YOU JUST OFF YOURSELF AND LEAVE ALL YOUR SINS TO FALL ON YOUR BROTHER?
YOU REALLY THINK THAT'LL MAKE HIM HAPPY?
O-OF COURSE IT WILL! MY BROTHER WILL--
IF I WERE YOUR BROTHER, I'D HATE IT.
MY BABY SISTER GIVING UP HER LIFE?
BRINGING ME BACK, ONLY TO GET TREATED LIKE A CRIMINAL?
H...
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO FOR HIS SAKE?

YOU'VE GOT YOUR WHOLE LIFE AHEAD OF YOU.
WHY DON'T YOU THINK IT OVER AGAIN?
SSSSS
HOW DARE YOU--
JUST STOP THIS, OKAY?
I...
SNIFF...
SHOOM!
YOU CAN STILL--
SEE?
BIND...
ORDER!!
WHAP!

SHUDDER
77...
WHAT?!
WHUMP!
...!!
DAMN YOU...!!
WOBBLE
SSSSS
DASH!
WOBBLE
DON'T GET IN MY WAY!!

SPLAT
SPLASH
MPH!!
STAGGER
WHAM!
WHOOSH
AH--

THUMP
I'M DEAD...
...?

WITH THE LAWS OF THE FIVE ELEMENTS, BREAK THE WALLS WITHIN ME!!
FWIP
SWISH...
BAN... UN... TARAKU, KIRIKU ...AKU!
TWITCH
SHINING!
CRACK!
AHH...

AHHHHHH!
AHHHHHH...
WHUMP!
...TO!
HOKU-
TO!
BZT

HOKU...
...TO?
BZZT
HOW COME...YOU NEVER... ANSWER YOUR PHONE?
STUPID-TORA...
BZZT
I DON'T GET IT!
W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SSH
BZZT
HARU-TORA...
NEVER TOLD YOU... TRICKED YOU...
I'M SORRY...
BZT
HOKUTO... WHAT...
W-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO...

I LOVE...
...YOU...
IF YOU DIE...I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU...
SO PLEASE...
BZZT!
RUN...
ZAP!
FLUTTER

A FAMILIAR?
FLINCH
FLUTTER...
SSSSS
EW, CREEPY!
YOU WERE SERIOUSLY DATING YOUR OWN FAMILIAR?
A FAMILIAR?
HOKUTO?
FIDGET
IT MUST HAVE BEEN A NICE PIECE OF WORK IF I DIDN'T NOTICE!
OH, WHATEVER, YOU CAN ALWAYS MAKE A BETTER ONE.
FIDGET

SHUT UP!
SH--
O-OR WHY DON'T I MAKE YOU ONE?
IT COULD LOOK LIKE ME, NOT THAT--
TSK!
LET'S GO, TSUCHIGUMO.
STUMBLE
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
WATCH YOUR MOUTH, YOU--
!!
WHAT?

VROOM!
SLAM!
TMP
TMP
TMP
CRUNCH!
CRUNCH
VRRRRRR...
SSSSS

SSSSS

HAAH
RATTLE...
SIGH

ARE YOUR... POWERS BACK?
NOT PERFECTLY, BUT...
YES.
I SHOULD HAVE THEM ALL BY TONIGHT.
NATSUME.
GASP
GASP
I WON'T TRY TO STOP YOU.
DRIP
I JUST HAVE...ONE REQUEST.
.....
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE GONNA GO PROTECT THE ALTAR.

END OF CHAPTER 3

CHAPTER 4
RITUAL
...MY FIRST SUMMER VACATION IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
THE FIRST TIME I MET HER, IT WAS...
SCREEE
I JUST HAPPENED TO SEE HER IN THE PARK.
...AND I WAS STARING WITHOUT REALIZING IT.
SHE LOOKED A LITTLE LIKE A POP STAR I WAS INTO THEN...
!!!
CLATTER
HER REACTION WHEN SHE NOTICED ME, WELL...

あわわわ!?
...IT WAS PRETTY BIZARRE.
WHA-WHA-WHA-WHAT?!
だだ
VROOM!
ワワ
えっ!?
HUH?!
TMP TMP
...SHE STARTED FOLLOWING ME AROUND CONSTANTLY.
だだっ
あっ
OH!
LINE OF SIGHT
視線
AND FOR SOME REASON, FROM THEN ON...
HM?
I KEPT CHASING HER, DAY AFTER DAY, TOTALLY CONFUSED AND HALF OUT OF SPITE...
WHENEVER I SPOTTED HER, SHE RAN AWAY.

SHE FINALLY TOLD ME HER NAME...
I'M...
ON THE LAST DAY OF VACATION...
I'M HOKUTO.
...LIKE A SUNFLOWER.
...WITH A SMILE...
NATSUME, I'M BEGGING YOU.
SSSSS

Y...
PLEASE...
MAKE ME YOUR FAMILIAR.
RIGHT HERE AND NOW.

YOU CALLED ME A LIAR WHEN YOU FOUND OUT I WASN'T GOING TO ONMYO PREP IN TOKYO...
YOU MEAN...
YOU REMEM-BERED THE PROMISE THIS WHOLE TIME?
HUH? W-WELL...
YOU... REMEM-BERED?
THE TRADITION...
GLARE
THEN WHY NOW?!
BAM!
FLINCH
YOU REMEM-BERED THE PROMISE... AND BROKE IT ANYWAY...
I'VE... HEARD THE RUMORS.
.....
THAT YOU'RE...
SIGH
N-NATSUME.

HARU-TORA.
AH!
THE REINCARNATION OF...
...YAKO TSUCHIMIKADO.
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I'M THE REINCAR-NATION...
...OF YAKO, OR NOT.
MODERN ONMYO CAN'T EVEN PROVE...
...WHETHER YAKO WAS REINCARNATED IN THE FIRST PLACE.
SO, YOU HAVEN'T GOT ANY MEMORIES OR...
NO, NOTHING.
BUT THAT RUMOR...
IT WAS ALREADY CIRCULATING WHEN I WAS BORN.
THE NEXT HEAD OF THE TSUCHIMIKADO CLAN...
...AND THE POSSIBLE REINCARNATION OF YAKO.
THAT'S WHO I AM.

IF I CAN'T DO IT...
...MY VERY POSITION WILL BE IN DOUBT.
AND THAT'S WHY...
...I HAVE TO STOP SUZUKA DAIRENJI, NO MATTER WHAT.
SHE'S BEEN FIGHTING THAT BATTLE ALONE ALL HER LIFE.
AND UNDER THE HEAVY PRESSURE FROM EVERY SIDE THAT COMES WITH IT.
SO THAT'S IT...
NATSUME HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN THAT POSITION.
I'M NOT A SPIRIT SEER, AND I DON'T HAVE ANY TALENTS.
MY PARENTS DIDN'T COMPLAIN, EITHER...
SHFF
I'VE BEEN TAKING IT EASY AT SCHOOL AND HANGING OUT WITH MY PALS.
I LOVED THAT LIFE, AND I THOUGHT IT WAS ENOUGH FOR ME.
NATSUME.
I...
WHEN I MADE THAT PROMISE TO HER...

I DIDN'T FACE UP TO MY POSITION THE WAY YOU DO.
BUT...I WAS WRONG.
RUSTLE
ALL THIS TIME, I'VE BEEN RUNNING AWAY FROM MYSELF...
I ALWAYS RAN AWAY.
EVEN THOUGH SOMEONE WAS TRYING SO HARD TO MAKE ME SEE IT.
.....
THE DRIVER TOLD ME WHAT HE COULD, BUT...
WHAT...?
IF I'D JUST BUCKLED DOWN...
...AND TRIED TO BE AN ONMYO MAGE, SHE...

HOKUTO WAS A FAMILIAR.
BUT SHE WAS STILL HOKUTO!
NOTHING CAN CHANGE THAT.
NATSUME, YOU'RE STILL YOU.
EVEN IF YOU'RE THE NEXT HEAD OF THE CLAN OR THE REINCARNATION OF YAKO OR WHATEVER.
THAT ISN'T WHO YOU ARE.
IT'S JUST A PART OF YOU.
I'M DONE RUNNING AWAY.
AND I'M STILL ME.
HARUTORA TSUCHIMIKADO, WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR FAMILIAR? HE'S PART OF ME.
I'M GOING TO DO WHAT HAS TO BE DONE.

PLEASE.
.....
MUMBLE
...PID-TORA.
HUH?
ARE YOU PREPARED FOR--
I'M READY.
FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, YOU'LL ALWAYS BE A FAMILIAR FOR THE TSU-- ...FOR ME.
IT WON'T BE JUST FOR NOW.
ARE YOU SURE?
SHFF
I WON'T LIE ANYMORE.

HMPH
OF COURSE NOT.
SHFF
FAMILIARS WHO LIE...
...GET PUNISHED, YOU KNOW.
BA-DUMP
SHING!
...TAKE YOU AS MY FAMILIAR.
CLINK
ALL RIGHT, HARUTORA.
I HEREBY...
HUH?
A knife?!

DRIP
SHFF
CLUNK
NNGH!
??
WHA...??
W-WHAT THE...!!
CLOSE YOUR EYES.
I, NATSUME TSUCHI-MIKADO...
IN THE NAME OF OUR ANCESTOR, ABE NO SEIMEI...
...TAKE YOU, HARUTORA TSUCHIMIKADO, AS MY FAMILIAR.
SHLP
SLIDE...

UH?
FLFF
HUH?!
WHAT--
BA-DUMP!
DRIP

SHLP...
BA-DUMP!
BA-DUMP!
BA-DUMP!
BA-DUMP!
BA-DUMP!

Y-Y-Y-YES?!
FROZEN...
コチ
HARU-TORA.
THIS MEANS...
SWIPE
.....
IT'S FINISHED.
YOU...
...ARE MINE NOW.
HUH?
SEE WH--
SO, HARU-TORA.
CAN YOU SEE IT?

YES. I USED MY MAGIC TO MAKE YOU A SPIRIT SEER.
IF YOU CAN SEE IT, IT WORKED.
NO WAY... IS IT...
SPIRIT SEER...
THIS IS...
BEAU...?!
YEAH.
...BEAU-TIFUL.

NO WAY... IS IT...
YES. I USED MY MAGIC TO MAKE YOU A SPIRIT SEER.
IF YOU CAN SEE IT, IT WORKED.

SPIRIT SEER...
THIS IS...

BEAU...?!
...BEAU-TIFUL.
YEAH.

SO THIS...
...IS THE WORLD THAT ONMYO MAGES SEE.
IT'S NOT SEEING SO MUCH AS... FEELING.
I NEVER KNEW...
HOKUTO.
I DON'T KNOW YET WHETHER YOUR WISH WILL COME TRUE, BUT...
...SPIRITS WERE SO BEAUTIFUL.
PHOOEY
O-OH. THE SPIRITS, HUH?
CRACK!
I'M FINALLY...

SHE...
...MUST BE APPROACHING THE ALTAR.
THE BARRIER THAT BLOCKS OFF THE ALTAR HAS BEEN BROKEN!
!
I SET IT UP BEFORE I WENT TO THE CAFÉ.
?!
The mirror...
GULP!
SSSSS

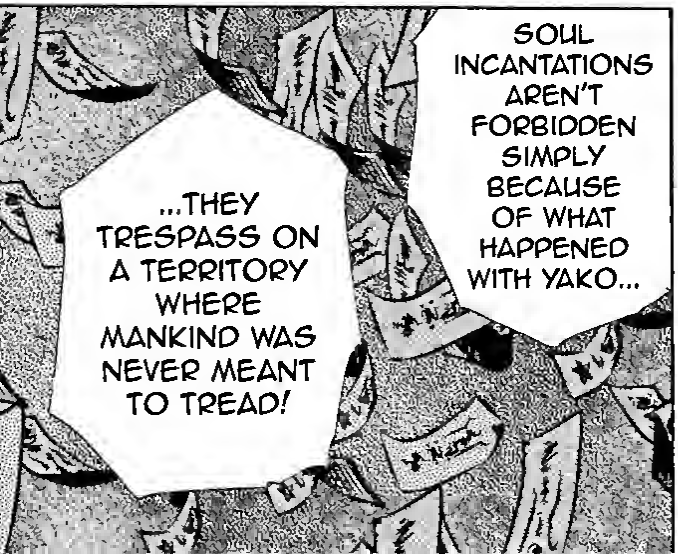
AA-AA-AA-AA-AAH!!!
WHOA-AA-AA-AA-AA
WHOOSH!
THIS IS CRAA-AAZYYYY!!
HARUTORA, YOUR ARMS ARE SHAKING.
NEVERMIND THAT, WHERE'S THE ALTAR--
AT THE PEAK OF THE MOUNTAIN!
IF SHE'S ON FOOT, SHE'LL GET THERE SOON.
YUKIKAZE, A FAMILIAR SERVING THE TSUCHIMIKADO CLAN

RUMBLE
I SEE IT!!

FWIP!
TCH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
HUH?!
BOOM!
!!
EEK!
SKKRT!

NATSUME, WE CAN'T GET NEAR THE ALTAR LIKE THIS.
AN ARMORED DEMON SOLDIER...!!
SHUDDER
!!
THAT'S... NO WAY...
HER BROTHER'S...?
SUZUKA DAIRENJI, STOP!
SNAP OUT OF IT ALREADY!!
SHUT UP!!

I'M GOING TO TRY AND BRING BACK MY BROTHER!!
YOU'RE A NUISANCE!! WHAT I DO WITH MY OWN LIFE IS MY DECISION!
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
YOU SHOULDN'T EVEN TRY!!
NO...


SOUL INCANTATIONS AREN'T FORBIDDEN SIMPLY BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED WITH YAKO...
...THEY TRESPASS ON A TERRITORY WHERE MANKIND WAS NEVER MEANT TO TREAD!

Huh?!
ANOTHER TSUCHI-MIKADO?
I DUNNO WHO YOU ARE, BUT BACK OFF!

THEY'RE NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN BLINDLY IMITATE IN THIS DAY AND AGE!
SOUL INCANTATIONS WERE CREATED FOR AN AGE WHEN INCREDIBLE PIETY FILLED THE HEARTS OF MANKIND!
Hmph!
YOU SNOB...
WHOOSH
YOU'RE SO GREAT, AND I'M SO WORTHLESS, HUH?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
YOU THINK ONLY A TSUCHIMIKADO CAN PERFORM THE RITUAL AND RESURRECT SOMEONE?
FWIP
NATSUME, LOOK OUT!
HERE IT COMES!
WOOSH

SWOOSH!
OH, NO!
ACK?! YUKIKAZE, DIVE!
?!
WHOOSH!
!!
TUG
WHINNY
!!
WHOOM!!
AH!
YANK!
WWEH
NATSUME, NO!
ARE YOU TRYING TO GET US CHOPPED UP?!

SHING
CRAP...
Whoa!
WHOA, THIS SWORD IS AMAZING!
IT'S A "SELF-DEFENSE SWORD"!
AN ANTIQUE, SPECIALLY FORGED FROM THE INSIDE OUT!
Really?!
BUT THE EDGE JUST CHIPPED...
WHA-AT?!
SHUDDER
CRUNCH
BOOM
SHOULDN'T SHE BE BETTER THAN THIS AT FIGHTING?
EVEN IF IT SNAPS, IT'S WORTH IT FOR THIS!
Gah--
OH NO
BOOM

VWOOM
?!
OH NO! SHE'S STARTING THE RITUAL--
NATSUME, LOOK UP!
YANK!
NGH!
BREE-HEE-HEE!
AH.
SHAKK!

VOOM
HARU-TORA?!
WHOOSH
WAHH!
HELP ME!
HOKUTO!!
H...?!
SHOOM...
POP!

BOOM!
WHAT?!
SHFF
WHOA?!

HEY! NATSUME! IS THIS DRAGON...?
HOKUTO? DID YOU SAY "HOKUTO"?!
H...
WHOOM
...AND A GUARDIAN BEAST OF THE TSUCHIMIKADO CLAN.
THERE AREN'T MANY REAL DRAGONS, BUT THIS IS ONE!!
A SERVANT FAMILIAR WHO'S SERVED OUR FAMILY'S HEADS FOR GENERATIONS...
MY TRUMP CARD.
HM-HMM! ♪
SHE'S TEMPERAMENTAL, AND SOMETIMES WON'T LISTEN TO ME!
BUT I CAN'T REALLY CONTROL HER YET!
WHAAAT?
R-REAL...
WHOOM

FLAP
FLAP
HMM?
DEFEAT THAT ENEMY FAMILIAR!
I KNOW YOU CAN--
WHOOSH!
HOKUTO, THIS IS AN ORDER!!
SEEMS PRETTY RELAXED...
SHOOM!
FLINCH
SLI-I-I-IDE!
WHIRL!
FWIP
EEK!!
WHOA!

HARUTORA, LOOK OUT! TRY TO JUMP BACK TO ME!!
H-HEY, WHAT KIND OF WAY IS THAT TO TREAT AN IMPORTANT FAMILIAR?!
FUME!
THAT'S CRAZY, I CAN'T DO--
THA-AHH-HH?! A-AA-A-AHH !!
BOING!
WHISH!
CLUMP
AHH-HH?!
HARU-TORA!!
WHUMP!

WAHHH!
HARUTORA! OH, HARUTORA-AA!!
NATSUME, I GET IT, NOW LET GO!
I CAN'T MOVE WITH YOU CLINGING LIKE--
WHOOSH
!!
DAMMIT!
ORDER!!
CRACK!
GRAB
Eek!
H-HARU... TORA?
GIMME THE REINS, NATSUME!
YOU FOCUS ON ATTACKING THEM!
HUH? UM... OKAY!
YUKIKAZE, IT'S UP TO YOU NOW!
WI-IZZY!

WHOOSH!
WHACK!
A-AMAZING!
HARUTORA, HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
WHISH
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! IT'S ALL THE HORSE.
WHISH
CRACK!
I DON'T NEED ANY!!
THIS ONE? WHERE ARE THE ARROWS?
AT THIS RATE, WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO FIND A SWORD.
HARUTORA, PASS ME THAT BOW!
SHING!
CRUNCH!

OKAY...
THEN WE WON'T HAVE TO WASTE TIME FIGHTING IT.
IT SHOULD DISTRACT IT!
THIS IS A PEACH WOOD BOW INFUSED WITH MAGIC!
FULL SPEED AHEAD!!
NATSUME, YOU DISTRACT THE SPIDER!
YUKIKAZE, FIND AN OPENING AND GALLOP STRAIGHT FOR THE ALTAR!
WE'VE GOT TO STOP THAT RITUAL!!
WHOOM...
R...R-ROGER THAT!
BUT, HARUTORA, YOU'RE MY FAMILIAR! I OUGHT TO BE TELL-ING--
I KNOW! JUST GO!
NATSUME!! YUKIKAZE!!
NNGH!

SQUEEZE!
HUH?!
WOBBLE
EEK!
SHWOOSH
SPLURT!
M-MY BUTT...
IT DOESN'T MATTER! STOP WHINING!!
BLUSH!
NNNGH...!
TWANG
WHACK!

WHOOSH
ALL RIGHT! NOW!!
IT WORKED?!
IT'S NO USE! HERE IT COMES!!
WHAM!
BAM!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

WHOOSH
OF COURSE!
SHE'S ON A WHOLE DIFFERENT LEVEL FROM THE FAMILIARS THOSE OTHERS USE!!
WOW!! SHE'S REALLY GOOD!!
CRUNCH
MUNCH
WHOOM
NOW'S OUR CHANCE!!
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME.

BA-DOOM!
ARGH?!
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
WHAM!

IT'S NO USE... I CAN'T GET FREE!
NNN-NNNGH...
GAH?! THESE TALISMANS...
CLOMP!
NNGH!
...BLOOD?!
IS THAT...
IS IT ALL HERS?!
IT CAN'T BE! THERE'S SO MUCH OF IT!
...HUMBLY PRESENT MYSELF TO THE TAIZAN FUKUN GOD OF THE AFTERLIFE.
I, ONMYO MAGE SUZUKA DAIRENJI...

FLUTTER
AHH!
CRACK!
WHOOOOOM
WHAT THE...
BA-DUMP

WHOOM
NATSUME, DID SHE--?!
I DON'T KNOW! BUT... THAT'S NO GOD--
SHUDDER
CRACKLE
BOOM!
!!

END OF CHAPTER 4

CHAPTER 5
RESOLVE
...MY WORLD WAS COLD AND HARD.
SHROUDED IN THE MAGICAL POWER I DESPISED...
THERE WAS ONLY ONE PERSON...
SUZUKA, LOOK!
...THAT GAVE ME LIGHT AND WARMTH. MY OLDER BROTHER.
I MADE US ANOTHER NEW FRIEND!
...JUST ONE MORE TIME...
FOR THE CHANCE TO BE NEAR HIM...
WHOOM

CHAPTER 5
RESOLVE
WHOOM
AAH...
WHOOM
I WOULD...
...GIVE ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING.

IT'S YOU!!
WHOOM...
DID HE...
...REALLY COME BACK?!
TH...
THAT'S...
IT'S YOU!
IT'S YOU!
IT'S REALLY YOU!!
FWUMP!
suzu.
...KA...
SHFF

SHOVE!
?!
?!
B...
BRO--
MM.
SHIFF
NEED...
MORE...
TMP

SQUEEZE!
HNGH?!
SQUEE-EE-EEZE...
SUZUKA...
NEED! MORE!
NEED... MORE...
WAIT...
W...
WHAT?!

I'LL...
I'LL GIVE YOU...
WAIT...
PLEASE..
SQUEE-EEZE...
...MY... LIFE...
I'LL GIVE YOU...
JUST...
WAIT... A LIT-TLE...

P-PLEASE...
SHE DESERVES THIS.
AFTER WHAT SHE DID TO HOKUTO...
SHE DOES!
IT SERVES HER RI...

--DAMMIT!
...NNNGGGOD--
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
NGH...
RUMBLE
YOU...
YOU STUPID BRAT!
RUMBLE...
RUMBLE
GAHHH!

HARUTORA, HOLD YOUR BREATH!!
BURN THE EVIL TALISMANS!
ORDER!!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
SIZZLE
FWOOM!
!!
ALL RIGHT!

SQUEE-EEZE
STOMP
STOMP
CUT IT OUT, YOU STUPID KID!!
?!
AH!

IS THAT...
...A SPIRIT PULSE?!
I GET IT!
THAT'S WHAT'S...
...MOVING HIM!

BUT HOW...?
I'VE GOT TO SEVER IT!!
THE HELL WITH IT!
GRIP
CRASH!
I DON'T KNOW...
FWIP
...AND I DON'T CARE!!

HELP ME...
THIS BLOOD OF MINE...
BLOOD OF THE TSUCHI-MIKADO CLAN!!!
CRACK!

LORD YAKO?
NO...
I'M SORRY.
I SEE...
CRICKET
CRICKET
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED YOUR MIND, HAVE YOU.
THEN I SHALL BE WAITING FOR YOU.
CRICKET
NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS PASS...

BECAUSE...
...I AM YOURS TO COMMAND.
BAN!
UN!

HUH?
TARAKU!
KIRIKU!
AKU!
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
ORDER!!
CHAIN OF THE FIVE ELEMENTS!
?!
CRACK!

NATSU-
ME?!
IF YOU LOOK AT IT, IT'LL TAKE YOUR SOUL!!
?!
WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T LOOK UP!!
THUMP
WHOO-OOM
WHOOM
OOM...

WHOOSH
WH...
!!
WHY ...?
WHY?!

THANKS.
BUT...
YUKI-KAZE...
THE SWORD, HUH?
WHOOSH
.....
...WE DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE.
PAT
FLINCH
W-WHAT NOW?!
GLARE
JUST HURRY UP AND KILL ME!
DO IT FOR YOUR FRIEND, OR FOR--
HEY.
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD WANT...

...TO YOUR BROTHER FIRST.
RIGHT?
...A CHANCE TO SAY GOOD-BYE...
I...!
.....
I...
FLUTTER
WAHH!
AH-HH!
AH-HH...
See what I did that huge thing back there?
MEH.
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
SPARKLE

ISN'T IT?
IT'S OVER.
GR-R-R-RING!
SO...YOUR FRIEND SHOULD ARRIVE SOON WITH THE MAGICAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU.
IN THAT CASE...
TOJI'S GONNA KILL ME FOR NOT PICKING UP...
He must be freaking out
OH MAN..
GAH!
YOU HAVE 24 MISSED CALLS

THE... TRADITION.
I'm sorry.
I NEED TO BE OFF THIS MOUNTAIN BEFORE THEY GET HERE.
HUH? WHY?
OKAY, SURE.
I CAN PLAY ALONG WITHOUT GETTING AN ANSWER FOR EVERYTHING.
IT'S FINALLY OVER...
RIGHT, HOKUTO?
...THAT TALISMAN OF YOUR FAMILIAR.
MAY I HAVE A LOOK AT IT?
HUH?

ONCE THE SPIRIT IS GONE, IT CANNOT BE RESTORED.
BUT...
...I'M SORRY.
D-DO YOU THINK YOU CAN FIX IT?!
THE PERSON YOU CALLED "HOKUTO"...
...MAY STILL BE ALIVE.
IN OTHER WORDS, THE PERSON WHO USED THE FAMILIAR TO INTERACT WITH YOU AS "HOKUTO"...
...IS STILL OUT THERE SOME-WHERE.
WHAT?!
HOW?!
THIS FAMILIAR IS A MANIPU-LATION TYPE.

THIS EFFIGY WAS ONLY A VESSEL.
HER REAL PERSONALITY LIVES ELSEWHERE.
I'M SORRY...
BUT I HAD NO IDEA SHE WAS A--
ME?!
B-BUT... WHY?!
WHO WOULD PULL A TRICK LIKE THAT? WHY--
THAT, I DO NOT KNOW.
IT MAY BE SOMEONE WHO'S KNOWN YOU A LONG TIME--
I'M SORRY.
TRICKED YOU...
NEVER TOLD YOU...

.....
I WON-DER...
...IF I'LL EVER SEE HER AGAIN?
SOME-DAY.
YES.
I'M SURE YOU WILL.
GOOD GRIEF...

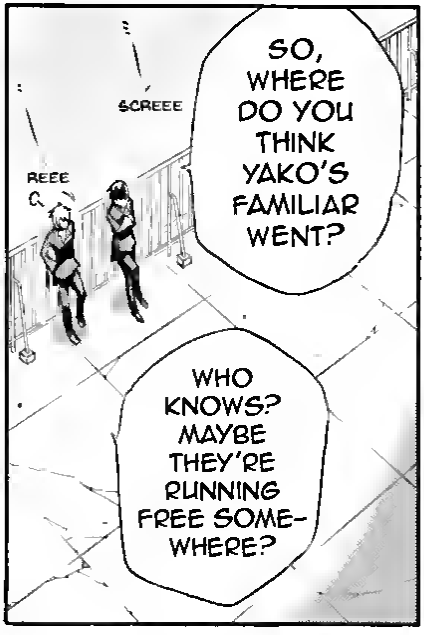
YEAH.
AFTER THAT--
WHAT A ROTTEN TIME FOR A STORM.
SCREEE
REEE
NATSUME WENT AHEAD DOWN THE MOUNTAIN.
SUZUKA WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY THE MAGICAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU.
I ENDED UP GETTING DETAINED ALL NIGHT TO GIVE A STATEMENT, TOO.
AND MY PARENTS EVEN CAME BACK FROM TOKYO, MOSTLY TO GIVE ME A GOOD SCOLDING.
REEE
WHEN THEY SAW THE PENTAGRAM ON MY FACE...
...THEY WENT ALL PALE AND SPEECHLESS.
GUESS I WAS WRONG ABOUT HOKUTO.
BUT...
WRONG? HOW?
YAKO'S FAMILIAR...
HUH?

WHEN I HEARD HOKUTO WAS A FAMILIAR, I THOUGHT--
WHAT IF SHE WAS YAKO'S?
WHAT?!
Hokuto, Yako's familiar?!

SAY YAKO REALLY WAS REBORN...
I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS FAMILIAR.
REEE
?
YOU MEAN THE FAMILY ONE, LIKE ME?
YEAH... WELL, HE MUST HAVE HAD LOADS OF OTHERS, BUT...

Well.
I GUESS I WAS WRONG, ACCORDING TO YOUR FRIEND.
WHOEVER WAS PLAYING "HOKUTO" IS SOMEWHERE ELSE.
SIGH...
WHAT A SHOCK, THOUGH...
I NEVER THOUGHT SHE WAS SOME-THING LIKE THAT...

REEE
SO... NATSU-ME?
THAT'D BE REALLY BAD LUCK. SHE'D WORK 'EM TO DEATH!
Ha ha ha
PROBABLY YEARNING FOR THEIR OLD MASTER, THOUGH.
CHUCKLE
Huh
...
SO...


SCREEE
REEE
SO, WHERE DO YOU THINK YAKO'S FAMILIAR WENT?
WHO KNOWS? MAYBE THEY'RE RUNNING FREE SOME-WHERE?

REEE
SCREEE
...A MYS-TERY?
IN THE END, OUR MYSTERY GIRL STAYS...
TOJI?
I THINK...

I WANNA GO TO TOKYO.
SHE'S LATE!

A FAMILIAR MUST ALWAYS BE AT ITS MASTER'S SIDE.
GOT IT, HARUTORA?
08/31 (TUES)
12:48
HOW LONG IS SHE GONNA KEEP ME WAITING?
SO COME TO TOKYO AS SOON AS YOU CAN!!
She's not very good at this, is she?
BUT SERI-OUSLY...
MEH, EITHER WAY.
AS LONG AS I CAN HELP NATSUME...
STUPID-TORA!!
DID I GET INTO THE MOST ELITE ONMYO PREP SCHOOL IN TOKYO...
...BECAUSE OF MY FAMILY PEDIGREE, OR MY HELP WITH THE DAIRENJI INCIDENT?

STUPID-TORA!!
L-LONG TIME NO SEE.
?
GEEZ... I'M HEARING THINGS?!
SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT... I HAD A LITTLE TROUBLE DECIDING ON SOMETHING.
IT'S OKAY NOW, THOUGH!
I MADE UP MY MIND, SO--

FLUTTER
NATSU...
...ME?
DIDN'T YOUR PARENTS TELL YOU?!
WHY...?
GULP
I...I CAME TO GET YOU, DUH!
Huh?
WHY'RE YOU WEARING THAT?!
BOY'S UNIFORM
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHAAAT?
IN FRONT OF OTHER HOUSES, THE TSUCHIMIKADO HEIR MUST ALWAYS...

...CONDUCT ONESELF IN ALL DEALINGS...
...WITH OTHER FAMILIES... AS A BOY.
THAT'S OUR TRADITION!
YOU'VE REALLY NEVER HEARD ABOUT IT?!
SO THAT'S WHY YOU HAD TO GET OFF THE MOUNTAIN.
Ohh!
AND WHY SUZUKA THOUGHT YOU WERE A GUY!
These were priestess robes!
A-A-A-ANYWAY!
納得 EUREKA!
IT'S NEWS TO ME.
WHAAAT? BUT I ASKED THEM TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOU!!
OH NO
OH NO
YOU'RE MY FAMILIAR, AFTER ALL!
SO YOU HAVE TO OBEY MY COMMANDS!
SHRIEK!
THAT'S THE SITUATION, SO YOU'D BETTER PLAY ALONG!
GOT IT? GOT-
I GET IT, NATSUME.

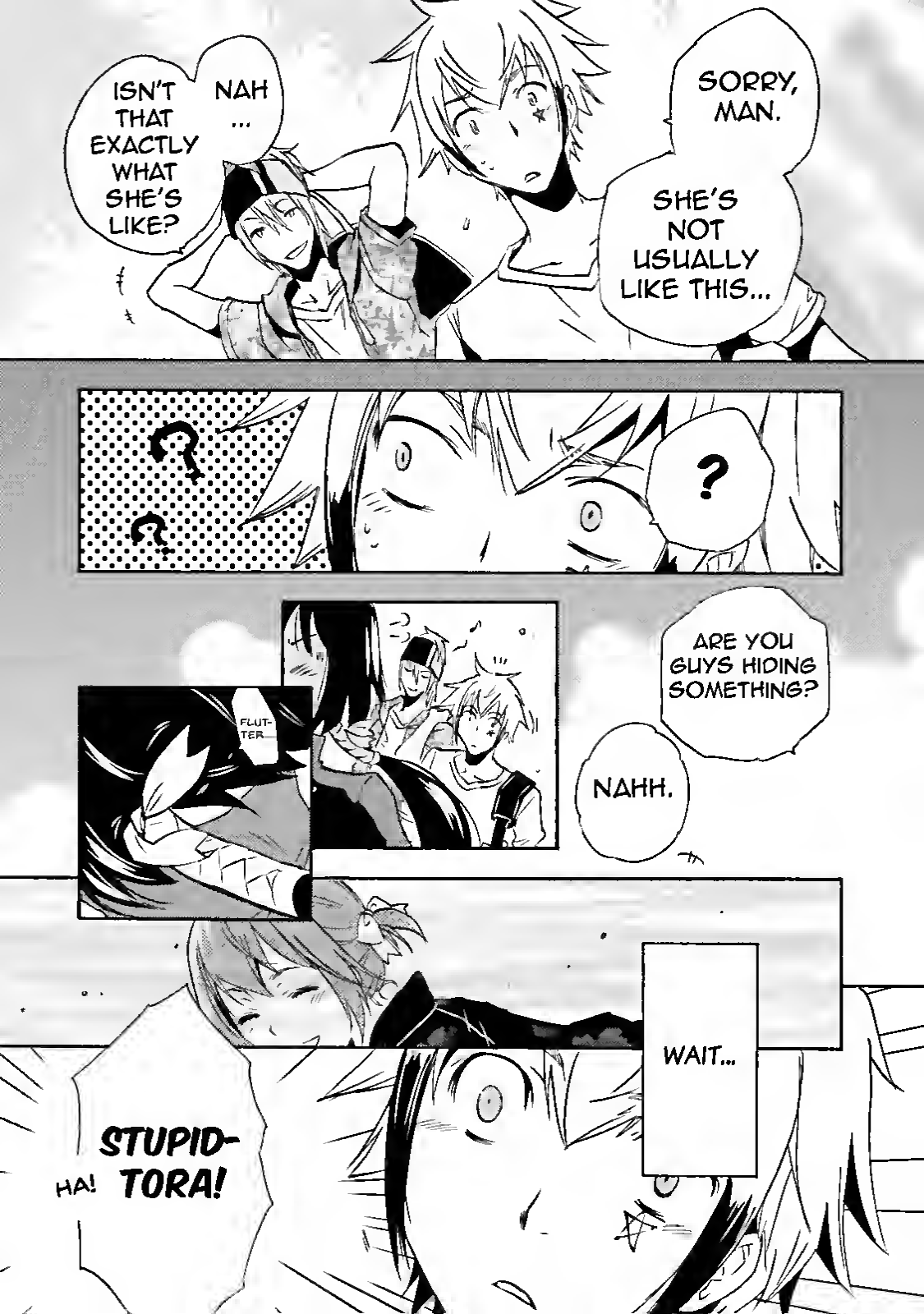
URK!
UM.
HUH?!
IT'S NICE TO "MEET YOU" AGAIN.
I THINK I DO.
YOU DON'T MEAN...YOU FINALLY UNDERSTAND THAT--?!
FLAIL
YOU "GET IT"?
YEAH.
"AGAIN"?
I'M SORRY...!
I NEVER TOLD YOU...
I TRICKED YOU.
FLUT-TER
HUH?
I'M SORRY.

NO WAY...
NO WAY!
HUH?!
YOU'RE SO DRAMATIC. IT WASN'T REALLY A TRICK, WAS IT?
Why would I be mad?
MY PARENTS JUST FORGOT TO TELL ME, THAT'S ALL.
YOU SAID YOU UNDERSTOOD --
KNOW WHAT?
HARUTORA, YOU...
YOU DON'T KNOW?
YEAH, I GET IT!
...PID-TORA...
...
It can't be helped! You're so serious
YOU'RE DRESSED LIKE A GUY BECAUSE IT'S "TRADITION"! I GET IT.
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...
Why are you mad?!
HUH?!
WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SUCH A STUPID-TORA?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!!

TOJI! DID YOU FINISH UP WITH YOUR PALS?
I WAS Well JUST SAYING HI SINCE I'M BACK IN TOKYO.
JUST LOOK AT YOU TWO.
Oh!
THIS IS MY OLD FRIEND, NATSU-ME--
WHAT --
WHAT THE HECK IS TOJI DOING HERE?!
HUH?
HOW DO YOU KNOW HIM? HE'S ENROLLING AT ONMYO PREP WITH ME.
...DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT??
IT'S NEWS TO ME!!
GRAB!

HUH?!
IT WAS A SIDE EFFECT FROM GETTING CAUGHT IN A SPIRIT DISASTER BEFORE.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A SPIRITUAL SEER.
YOU'RE BOTH ENROLLING AT ONMYO PREP?!
HE'S JUST AN AMATEUR, HE DOESN'T BELONG AT THE MAIN--
"ALWAYS"?
AH!
...WAIT.
THAT MEANS...
HARUTORA'S DAD WAS TREATING ME OUT THERE IN THE STICKS.
BUT NOW YOU SUCKERS NEED MORE LOOKING AFTER THAN I DO.
I'M REALLY GOOD AT TELLING HUMANS AND FAMILIARS APART.
ESPECIALLY THE MORE I SPEND TIME WITH 'EM.
I...
I-I...
SHUDDER
SMIRK

HARU-TORA?
What's going on?
?
"STUPID-TORA" REALLY IS THE PERFECT NICK-NAME.
HEH HEH HEH
FUME!
?
URK!!
SMIRK
SMIRK
SMIRK
NICE TO MEET YOU, NATSUME.
THAT RIBBON LOOKS NICE ON YOU.
GRK
DRIP
DRIP
OH, WHATEVER, JUST COME ON!!
I OUTRANK YOU AT ONMYO PREP ANYWAY!
WHAT'S UP WITH HER?
?
YOU'D BETTER BRACE YOURSELF!
STOMP
STOMP


SORRY, MAN.
SHE'S NOT USUALLY LIKE THIS...
NAH ...
ISN'T THAT EXACTLY WHAT SHE'S LIKE?
?
?
ARE YOU GUYS HIDING SOMETHING?
NAHH.
FLUT-TER
WAIT...
HA! STUPID-TORA!

AS YOU COMMAND, MASTER.
YEAH, YEAH...
C'MON, HURRY UP!
SIGH...
THEY'VE COME AT LAST.
塾長
PRINCIPAL

YEAH, YEAH...
C'MON, HURRY UP!
SIGH...

AS YOU COMMAND, MASTER.
THEY'VE COME AT LAST.
塾長
PRINCIPAL

THE FATE OF THE TSUCHI-MIKADO CLAN...
Wow, the buildings are huge! You can't even see any mountains!
Quit rubbernecking!
...IS IN MOTION ONCE MORE...
...EH?

END OF CHAPTER 5

NATSUME, BEFORE THEIR MEETUP

THANK YOU!!

TO ALL OUR READERS
TO AZANO-SENSEI (THANKS FOR ALL THE SOUVENIRS!!)

TO OUR EDITOR, W. KATO
TO ALL THE STAFF WHO HELPED US
THANKS TO YOU, WE'VE PUT OUT OUR FIRST VOLUME!
WE CAN'T WAIT TO WORK WITH YOU AGAIN!
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TOKYO RAVENS
Volume 1

KADOKAWA MANGA

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